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A CAMEO *of the* WEST

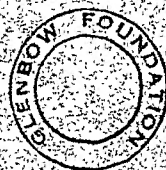
*Story of the Pioneers of the
Sturgeon River District*

1879 - 1900



PUBLISHED BY U.F.W.A., LOCAL No. 61

1936



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THE PIONEER SETTLERS

DAN MCKINLEY, 1879	WILLIAM PEARSE, 1888
HARRY LONG, 1879	JOHN FLYNN, 1889
WM. NICHOLSON, 1879	JOHN TINGLEY, 1890
GEORGE LONG, 1881	ROBERT BELL, 1890
D. B. WILSON, 1881	C. C. MAXFIELD, 1890
OLIVER CARSON, 1882	JAMES GIBSON, 1892
ROBERT KELLY, 1883	WILLIAM WINGROVE, 1892
GEORGE SUTHERLAND, 1883	JOSEPH RYE, 1892
DAVID CRAIG, 1883	JOHN SAMIS, 1893
GEORGE HUTTON, 1883	FRANK SMITH, 1894
ROBERT BAILEY, 1884	ORRAN ARNOLD, 1895
HARRY BELL, 1884	DAVID CROZIER, 1897
FINLEY McDONELL, 1886	RICHARD LOWE, 1898
JOHN KERR, 1898	

FOREWORD

by JOHN BLUE

THESE short biographical sketches of the pioneers of the Namao District have the freshness and directness of the lives of the men and women they portray and the events they record.

Possibly the most fascinating chapters of human history deal with the migration of tribes and races—the founding of new homes in new places. To Canadians the settlement of the North West is a deep and moving story of sacrifice and accomplishment in the up-building of our national life.

There is something arresting and dynamic in the procession of people by the thousands every year to take possession of the western plains and valleys, to conquer the soil that had gathered fertility since the ice age, to change the wilderness, and replace barbarism with civilization.

The settlement of the Sturgeon Valley is but a small scene in that great drama, but it is typical of how the west grew and of the pioneers who laid its foundations. The men whose lives are briefly recorded here were men strong of hand and body, but stronger of heart and soul; men of great purpose and great courage, unshirking in extending the boundaries of Canada, in shaping its institutions—civil and religious—in harmony with the traditions and aspirations of a true and vigorous Canadianism.

The reader of these simple annals will be impressed with the tenderness and chivalry of the men towards their women-folk and their children, and the reader will be thrilled by the conduct of the women, endowed with such fortitude and spirit of service, sustaining the morale of the community and thus conserving the richest resource of any people.

The three fundamental institutions of every state—the home, the church, the school—were close to their hearts and the cherished objectives of all their endeavors. Their children and friends do a fine public service in preserving their names and recording their deeds as a lasting heritage to thousands who enjoy the fruits of their labors and their sacrifices.

It is a good example for other communities in Alberta to follow and thus preserve for posterity the essentials of our provincial history.

OLDTIMERS

*The old order changeth, no longer we see
The creaking old ox cart that crossed the prairie.
The buckboard that followed the deep-rutted ways,
Has passed to the limbo of faraway days.*

*"Oldtimer" has gone to that faraway shore,
No longer the latchstring hangs out from his door.
But off from the highway above the ravine,
His tumbled log shanty is still to be seen.*

*I'll ever remember his kindly old face;
One very cold day I warmed up at his place.
A blizzard got up, I had ten miles to go.
I thought I could make it, "Oldtimer" said "No".*

*He crowded the team in behind the barn door,
And fixed up a bed on the log cabin floor.
He would have me "set in," and smiled as he said,
"I'm baking tomorrow so use up the bread."*

*Next day it had blown so no trail could be seen,
I felt that I owed him my life and my team,
A stranger, I mentioned the matter of pay,
He scoffed as he bade me a hearty good day.*

*And so to "Oldtimer" this story I've told,
A tribute to greatness that hardships unfold.
The Spirit of the West, the prairies maintain,
Was born of these men we are proud to acclaim.*

—ALFRED NICHOLSON.

THE STURGEON RIVER SETTLEMENT

THE Sturgeon settlement began in the year 1879 when Harry Long and William Nicholson came west on the first survey which came through to Edmonton. They came to the Sturgeon Valley and squatted on land which they filed on three years later. They were followed in the same year by D. L. McKinley.

In the following year, 1881, the families of George Long and D. B. Wilson came to the Sturgeon and in 1882 Oliver Carson and family came also.

The big influx of settlers, however, took place in the following ten years when practically all the homestead land was settled upon in this area. Among the settlers at this time were Robert Kelly, George Sutherland, David Craig and George Hutton. In 1884 came Robert Bailey and Harry Bell, in 1886 Finley McDonell, in 1888 William Pearce, in 1889 John Flynn, in 1890 John Tingley, Robert Bell and C. C. Maxfield, in 1892 James Gibson, William Wingrove and Joseph Rye.

The settlement was practically completed by the year 1900 by the addition of several families from the United States. Among these were John Samis, David Crozier and John Kerr, also Orran Arnold and Richard Lowe from Ontario.

The first church service in the district was held in the home of Mrs. George Long and was conducted by Rev. J. Baird, later services being held in Dan McKinley's shack.

In 1884 the first Presbyterian church, a log structure, was completed, where services were held by Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist congregations. Joint services were continued until 1896 when Bethel Methodist church was built and services were conducted by Rev. J. B. Taylor.

During the summer of 1935 the Namao United church held its fiftieth anniversary services, when Rev. J. B. Taylor, the first Methodist minister was a guest. Letters of greetings were read from Rev. Dr. Baird, the first Presbyterian minister and other former ministers.

The first wedding in the district was that of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey in 1887.

The first baby born in the district was Tracy Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Long, in 1882.

The first funeral was that of Mrs. Harry Long and baby in 1884. As there was no cemetery, Mr. Long set aside part of his homestead as a site and it is now the present Namao cemetery.

The present frame church was built in 1903, the first wedding held there being that of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bell in 1904.

The first school charter was obtained in 1885 and was named Sturgeon School District No. 24. The school session was held in the church building until the year 1896 when the first frame school was built. The first board of trustees consisted of D. B. Wilson, David Craig and George Sutherland, the latter acting as Secretary-Treasurer for the district. The first teacher was Mrs. Ingles.

The first class at school consisted of Nellie and Maggie Wilson, Mary Long, Mary and Lillie Arneau, Tena Craig, Maggie and Ena Cameron, James, George and John Sutherland, Tracy Long and Norbert Arneau.

The present two-roomed brick school was built in 1918.

In March, 1935, the Namao district celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the first school.

Three of the first pupils were in attendance, Mrs. W. F. Craig (Maggie Wilson), James Sutherland and Tracy Long. Each were presented with silver loving cups on behalf of the school board.

Mr. S. A. Carson, who had acted as trustee and later as chairman of the school board for 30 years was also presented with a similar cup.

The first post office and small store was opened at Sturgeon by James Johnson in 1891. Later Mr. Johnson's home burned down and the post office was moved to the home of Orran Arnold and later again to the home of George Sutherland where it remained until the present store and post office was built by J. F. Johnson in 1903.

The first picnic of the district was held in 1894 at Poplar Lake, when many attended from the town and surrounding districts.

The first coal mine was opened to the public in 1894 and was owned and operated by Frank Smith, although several others had been opened for short terms.

The first bridge over the Sturgeon was built in 1886. The contract was let by Mr. Cunningham to a committee of Messrs. D. Craig, Jim Ingram and J. A. Carson who sublet the contract to D. B. William and J. H. Kelly.

The Sturgeon District has proven itself to be one of the most fertile valleys in Western Canada and its people among the most progressive. The many fine farms and homes are the fruits of toil and perseverance and show the confidence held by those early settlers in what was once the site of Indian encampments and buffalo stampedes.



One of the first picnics, held in 1895

1879

HISTORY OF DAN McKINLEY AND MALCOLM McKINLEY

as recorded by

D. L. McKINLEY

DAN McKINLEY left his home in Prince Edward Island and came to Winnipeg in 1872. Dan McKinley, D. R. Fraser and Sandy McNab were among the crew sent to Edmonton from Winnipeg by the government to establish a sawmill, the first in Edmonton. Wagons and oxen were the mode of transportation used then.

In 1874 Sandy McNab and Dan McKinley homesteaded west of Edmonton. A dispute arose between the two pioneers. Each considered he had insufficient land (although they declared all the land west of Edmonton was theirs). This led to Dan McKinley going north of Edmonton about 1879, settling near the Sturgeon River on the land where the present Namao church and school are now situated.

He retired from active farming about 1905, moving to the Kootenay district in B.C. where he freighted for a number of years. Later he returned to Edmonton, selling his farm to Richard Secord. He lived a retired life in the city until his death in 1932.

During the Riel Rebellion he served on the transport.

In 1883 Malcolm McKinley followed his brother Dan west to Edmonton. Malcolm remained until 1886 when he returned east for his four children. They came as far as Calgary by train and were met by Dan with horses and wagon. The trip took four weeks in a steady rainfall, the rough trail and mosquitoes making a very unpleasant journey for the young children.

Malcolm McKinley settled at the Sturgeon near his brother, a half mile south of the present Namao school and church where he made his home until the boys were old enough to take homesteads, which they did in the Stony Plain district. The Sturgeon farm was then rented and Malcolm helped the boys prove up on their land, working part time on government telegraph lines in Alberta and B.C. He also interested himself in lumbering and mining, and took an active part in politics. He was also a telegrapher and scout during the rebellion.

He made his home in later years with his daughter, Mrs. Hugh McLean in Edmonton. He passed away in 1934 at the home of Dan McKinley, his son, who now resides on the old homestead at Namao.

HISTORY OF JAMES HENRY LONG

as recorded by his niece and his son

MRS. GORDON CLARK AND ALBERT LONG

TURNING back the pages of history to 1850, there was born on a farm near the town of Meaford, Ontario, James Henry Long, always known as Harry, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Long, formerly of Ireland.

Until the age of 20 years, Harry remained at home, but then came the call of the west which any man of courage and vision could scarcely resist.

The first few years away from home were spent in lumbering in Michigan and then a short time was spent working on a farm in Illinois where reapers were still unknown, and the grain was cut and tied by hand.

It was while working at these latter places that Harry became acquainted with some men who were making up a survey party. It finally led him to the present farm site on which he homesteaded and made his home. From 1873 to 1876 Harry spent his time on a survey party in summer and doing chores in the winter for Horace Reid of Winnipeg, a Superintendent of Indian agencies.

In 1877 the first survey west of Winnipeg was made and Harry Long was in charge of the transport which consisted of cayuses and carts. In this year they came as far west as Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta. The purpose of this survey was taking levels, descriptions and observations of the country. This survey party was in charge of Major King who was later the chief astronomer of Canada. The party wintered in St. Albert in the winter of 1877-1878. They returned to Winnipeg the following summer.

In 1879 Harry left the survey and secured a wagon (which is still in use) and a team of oxen. In company with William Nicholson, a brother of the late Mrs. John Harfold, they left for Edmonton, arriving in November, 1879, and spent the winter in the centre of what is now Dan McKinley's bush.

In the spring they squatted on land which, when surveyed three years later, was known as Section 31, Township 54, Range 24, west of the 4th Meridian.

In the following three years Harry Long built a home of logs with a mud fireplace, and cleared about 15 to 20 acres of land with his oxen. It was in this house that Mr. and Mrs. George Long made their home when they arrived in 1881. They lived with Mr. Harry

Long until Harry married and they built a home of their own on the adjoining homestead.

In December of 1882 Mr. Harry Long and Mr. Charlie Carson left for Winnipeg with a cayuse and jumper to take the train for Ontario where they were to wed the sweethearts of their boyhood days.

Harry Long was married to Elizabeth Whitelaw, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Whitelaw of Meaford, on May 24, 1883. Before her marriage Mrs. Long was a music teacher and a faithful member of the Disciple Church.

On their return journey they came on the same train as Mr. and Mrs. George Sanderson, the Craig and Wilson families to Swift Current. From this point they journeyed to Fort Edmonton with wagon and carts, arriving about July 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Long founded a home when they reached the Sturgeon that was known to all the neighboring pioneers as a home of kindly hospitality and Christian spirit. This home sustained a great loss on August 26, 1884, when Mrs. Long was taken away and left a sorrowing husband and an infant son known to us all as Bert. There being no cemetery at this time Mr. Long set aside the present site which was a part of his own homestead and the grave of Mrs. Harry Long was the first grave to be placed there.

The late Mrs. D. B. Wilson helped to care for Bert until the following October when Harry Long's sister, Miss Elizabeth Long, "Aunt Lizzie", arrived from Meaford, Ontario, and lived with Mr. Harry Long and Bert until her death in March, 1935.

Mr. Harry Long served on the first school board as trustee and helped with the building of the first church at Sturgeon.

Mr. Long passed to his eternal rest on August 8, 1925, at the age of 75 years.



Sturgeon School and Church at Namao built in 1883. Used as School and Church until 1896

1884

MISS ELIZABETH LONG

MISS ELIZABETH LONG was born in Meaford, Ontario, in 1856. She came to Calgary and then to Sturgeon by buckboard, accompanied by Miss Simpson and Mr. Sanderson and after 11 days of travelling arrived in Edmonton on October 13, 1884.

When her brother's wife died, leaving him with an infant son (A. W. Long), she came at his request to make her home with him and to care for the baby.

Miss Long, "Aunt Lizzie" as she was lovingly called by all who knew her, was mother and advisor to Bert, and a friend to all. She was always a very active worker in the church and district affairs. She was a member, first of the Methodist church and later the United Church of Canada. She was a charter member of the Ladies' Aid and the Missionary Society and for many years president of the British and Foreign Bible Society of the Sturgeon District. She was one of the first Sunday School teachers in the Sturgeon Valley.

Those who gave their lives to the preaching of the Gospel always found a warm and genuine hospitality at the home of Mr. Harry and Miss Lizzie Long.

Aunt Lizzie, who was active until the last, passed away in March, 1935, leaving behind her a very dear memory of her bright and cheery life.

DIARY OF HARRY LONG

FOLLOWING are some of the extracts taken from the diary kept by Mr. Harry Long in 1884 and 1885. This will give a more vivid idea of what our pioneers really endured:

June 13, 1884—John Wilson is hauling rails for me for a fence. I went to help finish raising the church. Thunder storm in the evening. June 14, 1884—Helped Dave Craig, Sr., to finish the fence between him and me. In the evening the Literary Society met at our house. We had a very pleasant and instructive evening. June 15, 1884—Got up late, did the usual amount of chores. Went to church in the afternoon and heard Mr. Campbell. There was a good turnout and the weather is very hot. June 17, 1884—John Wilson and I went to town with old Doll and the light wagon. Sold a keg of butter to the Indian Agent; he could not pay me, had no cash. Got bottle of medicine from Dr. Wilson. Paid one dollar for it. Bought from St. John, one rocking chair for five dollars. Had dinner with Mrs.

Sanderson, got home early, got a lot of letters. June 18, 1884—We cleaned up all the wheat in the forenoon, Nick (Mr. Wm. Nicholson) was over and helped a little. Nick and I went to Fort Saskatchewan in the afternoon with 14 bags for me and 3 for Nick. Got to mill at six o'clock. Mill out of order and could not get our grist home with us. Slept all night in the mill. June 19, 1884—Came home before dinner, built fence in afternoon. Craig had dinner with us. Weather very hot. Thunderstorm in evening. June 23, 1884—Dave Craig started for Calgary to bring his family. Weather cloudy and cool. June 26, 1884—Weather fair. I made a corral to milk the cows in. Mr. George Sanderson and wife came to visit. Mrs. Sanderson stayed for a few days.

June 28, 1884—I made a machine to scuffle potatoes and worked in the garden. The Literary Society met early. There was a large gathering and a very enjoyable time was had. Mr. Campbell stayed all night. July 1, 1884—We went to Edmonton, had dinner with the Sandersons. I went to see the sports, everybody was there, the fun was tame, nearly everybody was drunk. Started home early to do the chores. July 2, 1884—Nick and John Wilson were here for dinner. I went to Craig's after dinner. Wilson took the oxen to plow. July 6, 1884—George (Long) brought the mail. We read it all day. July 11, 1884—I helped shingle the church. Weather fine. July 13, 1884—Got up late and did the necessary chores. John Wilson came and had dinner. We drove to church; there was a very good meeting. Mr. Campbell gave a very good sermon. We held a meeting for the first time in the new church. Wilson stayed for tea. July 15, 1884—Nick, George and I went to Edmonton. I saw Mr. Pearce, the land commissioner. Had dinner with Sanderson's. Got our freight which should have come last year. Got home at dark. We got a lot of mail. July 16, 1884—Got up late and milked before breakfast. Libbie and I went to George's for a barrel of sugar.

October 13, 1884—Sister Lizzie arrived in Edmonton with Mr. Sanderson and Miss Simpson. October 15, 1884—This is my 34th birthday. I walked to Edmonton to bring Lizzie home. I was very glad to see her and to bring her home. She made the trip from Owen Sound in 11 days. October 18, 1884—We brought my little baby home. He is a dear little fellow.

April 1, 1885—Snow all gone in the middle of March. Some people began to plow today. April 4, 1885—Finished fence. Went over to Nick's in the evening and fitted a yoke to his steers. April 7, 1885—Did chores. Mr. Sutherland came for 10 bushels of potatoes and he helped me clean some wheat. April 8, 1885—Heard the Indians were at Saddle Lake. Joe Carson and Jim Ingram had to walk to Victoria. April 9, 1885—I went to Edmonton for the mail. Took Lizzie and baby. We found everyone terribly excited about the hostile Indians. Have formed a company of volunteers

and are fixing up and fortifying the Hudson's Bay Fort; fixing up all the arms that can be found. Telegraph wires down. Indians have made a general outbreak around Battleford. Mrs. Sanderson and Mrs. Kelly are going to Roman Catholic Mission at St. Albert for safety. They think Lizzie and baby should go too. I consented as danger seems very near. A courier has been sent to Calgary for help. All the help that can be found in Canada is needed. I came home alone, very tired and excited. April 10, 1885—I went to the Mission to help fix up rooms for the women. We got the carpenter shop very comfortable and fixed up a stove. Joe Carson rode home with me and told me all about the trouble he had had with the Redskins at Saddle Lake. They were very saucy, struck him and slapped him in the face, he dared not strike back for fear the others would shoot him. April 11, 1885—I went to Craig's in the morning, had dinner and went to Carson's. Charlie is very much frightened because the Indians intend to kill all the Government men. I went home for tea. Nick came over and in comes Jim Ingram with gun in hand to warn us the Indians are at Fort Saskatchewan and all the settlement are in flight. I harnessed the horses quick and then turn all the stock loose and put three bags of oats, hay, flour, meat and bedding in wagon and then fly to George's to help them get ready and then fly across the river to J. Kelly's and find all the neighbors there. The night is very dark. At eleven o'clock we hear it is a false alarm. The Indians only passed Beaver Lake and compelled G. Steele to kill a pig and then cook it for them and went on their way to Battle River. April 12, 1885—I come home from Kelly's, do up chores and then go to Mission and see baby and Lizzie. They are comfortable and seem to be doing well. Every available place is full of women and children. I went to Nick's on my way home and there was a Dude there giving every one notice to join the troops for 20 days, find your own horses, and get \$4.00 per day. I cannot go for which I am very sorry. April 14, 1885—Very windy. Dan McKinley came to borrow fanning mill. Hutchings' settlement people, who moved their cattle across the Sturgeon, are moving home again. They are terribly excited. Began to snow this afternoon. April 15, 1885—Still snowing. Got up late and did chores and baked. Very lonely and disagreeable day. Saw no one all day. April 16, 1885—Still snowing and stormy. Am alone all day and thinking of the savages and the possibility of all being killed immediately. April 17, 1885—Craig and Nick came along in morning. Craig and George went for their families. Afternoon I went to see Charlie Carson and talked awhile. I found him very much afraid the savages will come upon us. Snow going, weather cold and windy. I feel very uneasy about little Bert and Lizzie and do not know how to act. April 18, 1885—Nearly everyone is moving home. Still excitement is very great. News from Victoria that people at Pitt are all massacred. Victoria people are moving to Edmonton for safety. We feel danger

is near and no way to prevent it. I went and brought Lizzie and the baby home. Little Bert is looking fine. Roads are bad. War and bloodshed staring us in the face. Do not know what day or hour we will have to fly. No hope only to trust in Jesus. H. Rowsell came in tonight. April 19, 1885—Is a very long and sad and uncertain afternoon. Nick came in. No one can look cheerful or smile. I am glad when night comes. April 20, 1885—I keep Herby to harrow. Weather fine, begin sowing again. About 10 o'clock Murdoch Sutherland brought news that 600 soldiers are on road from Calgary for here. They are expected in this week. Everyone's countenance changes instantly. Now we will feel safe, which we have not done for two weeks. Weather fine. April 21, 1885—Continued sowing. We enjoyed a happy feeling of safety. April 22, 1885—Seeding. Weather cloudy and some snow. April 23, 1885—Finished with Nick's harrow and then sent Herby to harrow for Nick in the afternoon. April 24, 1885—Let Herby go and start plowing myself. April 25, 1885—Plowing again. Feel very thankful that the soldiers are so near. April 26, 1885—Went to church this afternoon and heard Mr. Baird give a very fine sermon. Got word that Fort Pitt is being taken by the Indians. Weather very fine. April 27, 1885—Sold Charlie Carson a cow and calf. Finished plowing today.

May 1, 1885—The first soldiers arrived today, everyone is rejoicing. I went to Sutherland's and Craig's this morning. Began to sow oats after dinner. May 2, 1885—Went to Craig's this morning. Jim Sutherland harrowed for me today. May 4, 1885—Jim is harrowing. I am sowing barley. Mr. Lauder came to buy Arthur's wagon—told him it was sold to George Sanderson. May 7, 1885—Very cloudy and snowing a little. I rode over to see old grey horse. Will Carson was not at home. Did some writing in the afternoon.

This is as far as Mr. Long kept his diary.

1879

HISTORY OF WILLIAM NICHOLSON AND MR. AND MRS. JOHN HARROLD

as recorded by

MR. D. M. HARROLD

IN the year 1879, William Nicholson left Caithness, Scotland, for Canada. The trip across the ocean took him six weeks. In Good Hope, Ontario, he met Harry Long and the two of them started for the west on the first survey which came through to Edmonton.

When they came to the fertile Sturgeon Valley they decided to homestead there, and it so happened they both remained there until they passed to the Great Beyond.

Mr. Nicholson had promised his younger sister, Mrs. John Harrold that if Canada were a place where she would be able to build a home and keep her family together, he would send for her. He did so a few years afterwards, but as Mrs. Harrold's parents were both growing older she remained with them until they both passed on. Mr. and Mrs. Harrold and a family of five boys and one girl then started on their long journey. The oldest boy was twelve years old and the youngest a few months old.

They landed in Namao on the 28th of May, 1888. They were freighted in from Calgary by Mike Maloney with oxen, and the folks used to say that this was the best part of the journey.

Mr. Nicholson, who was a bachelor, found that when he took six husky Scotch youngsters into his home, he had rather a trying time. Several of his animals, who were also used to quietness, disappeared one day into the woods and they were not found for days.

Mother was very homesick for the first year, and often said that she would walk back if she had been alone in the country; but as she had Mrs. George Long as her next door neighbor, and as she became better acquainted in the district she liked Alberta so well that when the opportunity came to visit the old home, she did not avail herself of the chance to do so, although father visited Scotland twice.

After their stay at Mr. Nicholson's, they rented the Hutton farm, where Sam Bartlett now lives. George Hutton, the owner, had a large farm and was a great dealer in horses and cattle. The cows were all bronchos and had to be hogtied to be milked. The oxen the boys drove while harrowing were very stubborn, and the boys had difficulty in turning them around. They tried the novel idea of tying a piece of haywire to the animal's ear. At the first pull of the wire, the oxen stampeded and the worst runaway of the Sturgeon district was recorded.

During that year a bear visited the ranch and with the help of the Carson brothers and Charles Carson's Schneider rifle, the bear was killed. Father sent one of the bear's paws to the Old Country—perhaps that accounts for lack of immigration from Caithness to the Sturgeon district for a number of years.

After three years on the Hutton farm, during which time they had raised considerable stock, they moved to their own place, two and a half miles south-west of the Sturgeon Presbyterian Church, where the youngest son and his family still reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrold retired in 1909 and lived in Edmonton until their deaths. Mr. Harrold passed on in 1920 and Mrs. Harrold in 1925. Their son, David, died in Lloydminster in 1905, and another son, Harry, in Edmonton in 1931.

There are four members of the family still living, John, William and Donald in the Sturgeon District and Mrs. J. G. Morris in Edmonton.

1881

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. GEORGE LONG

as recorded by their daughter

MABEL, NOW MRS. GORDON CLARK

BY turning back the annals of time for more than half a century, we see at Meaford, in Gray County, Ontario, a marriage ceremony being performed, uniting George Long and Annie Laycock in bonds of matrimony, a couple who were later destined to play such a prominent part in the early history of Namao and district.

The happy couple resided for a year in Ontario, then they felt the call of the west and moved to Miami, Manitoba, to try their fortunes along with others possessed of the same pioneering zeal.

During their stay in Manitoba, reports drifted to them from Mr. Long's brother, the late Harry Long of Namao, who had by this time spent two winters in the territory which is now the Province of Alberta. They were stirred by these favorable rumors of the land to the west and ere another year elapsed they decided to trek westward again and join him.

In 1881 they gathered their worldly possessions together in preparation,

"And took to the open road at the call of spring
And all was beauty beneath the sky."

It was necessary for them to travel with oxen and a creaky Red River Cart which had a canvas top. With them they took three oxen, two cows, twenty chickens and two pigs. Besides themselves they now had a little daughter, Mary. Thus equipped a westward trek of a thousand miles was begun on June 1, 1881.

The drygoods, consisting of bedding, clothing, etc., they sent by boat from Winnipeg to Fort Ellis. However, it was never heard of again. As there were many floods and the rivers had been swollen by spring thaws it was supposed that everything had been destroyed in the floods.

In the main they followed old buffalo and Indian trails which wound over the plain through the tall "prairie-wool". From Winnipeg they headed in a north-westerly direction. En route they passed through Brandon which at this time was alive with activity as it was the end of steel. There were no log or frame buildings in the town but the site was marked by the white tents of the construction crews. Mr. and Mrs. Long sojourned at Brandon for a week as this was the last settlement they were to see before reaching Fort Edmonton.

When the family left Winnipeg they had a hundred pounds of flour. Mrs. Long baked bread on the trip in a reflector oven which was made of highly polished tin. Besides this they had all the milk, eggs and butter they could use, and wild game and berries were also very plentiful. Mrs. Long tells how they milked the cows and fed the milk to the pigs which grew so large that their crate had to be increased in size three times.

Oftentimes it was impossible to travel during the heat of the day as the oxen fatigued so easily. Whenever they encamped it was necessary to build smudges to ward off the swarms of mosquitoes. In the mornings the cows would frequently hang around the smudge long after the cart and its occupants had journeyed on, but always managed to catch up with them sometime during the day.

Mrs. Long walked the greater part of the distance, preferring that to jolting along in the cart. It was necessary to ford many of the rivers because bridges and ferries were lacking. After leaving Brandon, the next place they reached, which later grew into a town, was North Battleford. However, at this time it consisted only of a government Indian agency building. The Battle River flows into the North Saskatchewan at this point and two fords were necessary.

The family finally arrived at Harry Long's homestead on September 1, and such a sense of satisfaction they must have felt at eventually reaching their destination! Mr. Long was disappointed in the country and wished to return at once, but the memory of the long and tedious journey was still fresh in Mrs. Long's mind, so putting her trust in God she was willing to try and hew a home out of the wilderness. Therefore they decided to stay, and soon Mr. Long filed on a homestead. It was then called colonization land and was still unsurveyed. The land was located between that of Harry Long's and Mr. Nicholson's, brother of the late Mrs. John Harrold, just one mile west and one mile south of Namao.

The first winter in this province was spent with Harry Long in his log shack. They had no stove and all the cooking was done over a clay fireplace. The family couldn't afford to buy flour as it sold for twelve dollars a hundred pounds, so Mrs. Long made biscuits from black flour.

The first fall Mrs. Long gave birth to Tracy, the first white child to be born in the Namao district. Her nearest neighbor at this time was Mrs. Hutchings on the Poplar Lake road, a distance of seven miles.

The following spring the shack in which they were living with Harry Long burnt down. They lived in a granary until shacks could be erected. This time Mr. Long built one of his own. For her new home, Mrs. Long diligently knit curtains and made rugs. All the early settlers also made candles from tallow, shaping them in molds.

Much to the credit of all the early pioneers they began to hold church services almost at once. Church was at first held in Mrs.

Long's home because it was the largest residence in the district. The first minister was Dr. Baird, who now lives in Winnipeg. He drove out from Edmonton on Sundays with a horse and buggy. The settlers had no other way of getting to church except by oxen, so they walked. All took some lunch with them and after services they remained and had dinner before leaving. A church was later built in 1884. It was also used as a school until the district could afford the erection of a more suitable building for that purpose.

During the Saskatchewan rebellion of 1885 all the women and children were taken to St. Albert, as it was then fortified, for refuge. Father Lacombe, the venerable old missionary at St. Albert kindly did all he could for the refugees and used his influence among the Indians to hold them in check. At the mission all the women and children made their beds on the floor in long rows.

The men-folk, meanwhile, went on with their farming, fearlessly facing death almost hourly. A government Indian agent went through the community and gave each man a Schneider rifle, cartridge belt and bayonet. Some of these are still preserved as memoirs of the troubled time. The men were offered five dollars a day to join the army, but some even then refused, as their homes and families meant more to them than mere monetary reward.

Mr. George Long and Mr. D. Craig were the first residents in Namao district to operate a threshing outfit, a partnership which lasted over 40 years. ~~The first machine was run by horse power.~~ Several neighbors owned teams and when threshing time came around they brought their horses to run the machine and were threshing in turns. It was necessary to cut the bands on all bundles before they went into the machine.

During the early years of pioneering it was not an infrequent occurrence to have the wolves claw through the sod roofs and buildings and kill chickens and attack the stock.

In 1892 Mr. Long had an opportunity to go down east. He went, and was gone for nearly three months. On his return he brought Mrs. Long her first set of dishes. Some time later Mrs. Long was able to make a visit back east to see old friends and relatives.

Epidemics of diphtheria were prevalent in the district in 1894. At that time it was very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain medical aid. In one of the epidemics the Long family were unfortunate enough to lose three of their children, Mary, the eldest, Leslie and Ernest.

Mr. Long once sold a horse to a prospector who was going on the gold rush to the Klondike in 1898. A year later the horse returned with galled saddle marks. But nothing concerning the fate of the rider ever drifted back over that trail of '98.

One of the first automobiles of the district was introduced by Mr. Long. It was a Ford model of 1912.

Mr. Long served the public long and faithfully in different spheres of services. He was one of the members of the first Board of Directors of the U.F.A., which held its first convention in January, 1909. He also held positions on the Edmonton Exhibition Board and Namao School Board.

The wheels of time roll on, and in 1915 Mr. G. Long passed to the great beyond at the age of sixty-four, leaving his wife, family and friends to mourn his loss.

Mrs. Long, at the age of eighty-one, is still living and takes a lively interest in community and church affairs and enjoys the adoration and high esteem of countless friends. There are five surviving children of the Long family, Tracy, Stanley, Phoebe, Lorne and Mabel.

"For on his steady march,
Time builds and time decays."

And now the old pioneers are passing and we of the younger generation pay tribute to them because they leave behind them a noble and glorious heritage and it is hoped that posterity will carry on their fine examples of courage, endurance and perseverance, and always have a deep and lasting appreciation for their early efforts and sacrifices in opening for us a new country such as the district of Namao now is.

1881

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. D. B. WILSON

as recorded by their daughter

MRS. R. BAILEY

MR. D. B. WILSON had a farm in Wellesley, County of Waterloo, in Ontario. Having heard tales of the west country, he became discontented with his farm and picking rocks, so he decided to try his luck out west. He called a sale and sold off all but the bare necessities and left for the west, then known as the Red River country.

He returned in the fall of 1882, quite decided to return west again; so calling a second sale in the spring of 1883, he took his wife and family of five daughters and two sons and started out.

On arriving in Winnipeg he stopped there, bought a reaping machine, and worked in the harvest. At that time the grain was cut with reapers and dropped off in sheaves, with the bands made of grain and tied by hand. It took a good workman to keep up to a reaper.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly and Bob Kelly joined our party at Winnipeg. After leaving Winnipeg for points further west, it was

discovered that father had missed the train, so we stopped off at Portage La Prairie, waiting there for two or three days for him. Our next excitement was to find that Jim Kelly had forgotten his violin on the train. After considerable trouble he found trace of it and got it back.

When we got off the train at Portage La Prairie, we saw our first Indian chief; he was quite a curiosity to us, all decked out with paint, feathers and beads. I think the paint they used must have been enamel as it was so shiny. We then started on to Swift Current where we were held up for three weeks waiting for our freight. While there the Indians, numbering from four to five thousand, with their chief "Pie Pot" were then receiving their money.

I well remember one incident while staying there, a fellow called Little John who kept a cafe offered me 50 cents to wash dishes for him. As the Indians always called for the garbage, the squaws held their blankets while we put the garbage in them. This particular day Little John had put some stale eggs in the garbage. When the squaw came I showed her the eggs; she at once got her blanket ready for me to put them in. Thinking I was doing right, I threw them in for her, but as some popped open she started backing up. Of course I kept following her and throwing them in her blanket. Finally she turned and ran for her teepee, but came right back with her husband. Little John, seeing them coming, told me to hide, as they were angry and would scalp me. I hid behind some boxes in the store, and had to stay there until they finally left. I could see them from my hiding place and was terribly frightened, as I could see knives in their belts. We thought, as they always put their fish out on the grass for several days before eating them, that they would eat stale eggs.

We were in Swift Current three weeks. Father hired half breed freighters with their ponies and Red River carts to bring our freight through. There were 21 Red River carts and a democrat which father bought for mother and we girls to ride in. My sister Sarah and I thought there would be more fun riding in one of the carts so we asked one of the freighters if we could ride in a cart, which we did. There were no lines, as one horse followed the other along the trail, and when they came to their camping grounds they would turn in themselves. Then it was to see who could unhitch first and turn the pony out. We then gathered firewood, had dinner, rested a while, and started on. We were about five weeks on the trail. The freighters rode on saddle ponies ahead of the outfits. When we came to a bad place they would pilot the road, tying a rope on the saddle horse's tail and on the cart, in that way helping them through, as we had to ford the creeks and rivers. There were days while traveling on the prairie that we never saw a person or house, only deer, moose and buffalo at a distance.



We crossed at the forks of the Red Deer with our dunnage on scows. The horses were made to swim. We camped here for several days. While here, two white homesteaders called at our camp. They told mother not to let us young folks go around the river as there were lots of rattle snakes, which frightened mother, and we moved on. As our freighters were having a celebration and were unable to come on, father decided to leave without them, which we did, and by noon the next day they caught up to us. Jim Kelly had bought a team of oxen and started out several days before us. We could see his outfit ahead of us for several days before we caught up to him. We next came to Grizzly Bear Coulee. In descending they had to tie ropes from the carts to the saddle ponies' tails, and face the ponies uphill and let them back down gently one at a time so as not to upset the carts.

We next came to Battle River. The current was very swift, the water coming up into the carts. We arrived at South Edmonton, and father, who was full of praise for the west said to mother: "Come, I will show you Edmonton. Did you ever see a prettier building site for a town?" Mother, who was tired and homesick, said: "Have I come all this distance just to see that?" We crossed the Saskatchewan river on scows. Father, who was using the oars, was knocked overboard, and had to be pulled out.

As mother was quite ill, we camped on this side of the river for several days before starting out for our homestead. The day we left Edmonton we drove as far as Billy Rowland's, and then camped and had dinner. As the afternoon wore on, father took his compass out, and we found we were near Fort Saskatchewan. We reached Ben Rondo's shack at sundown.

My brother, Tom, who had arrived three weeks earlier and had helped helped Mr. Craig and Will drive the cattle from Swift Current was staying with Jim Ingram. When they saw us pull in at the river they were soon down to meet us. As they were low in provisions and without salt, and had been living chiefly on prairie chickens, they enjoyed the pancakes we made for them.

Jim Kelly left the next morning at three o'clock to get our trunks from Edmonton. He told us not to worry if he didn't get back that night as it was a long trip. He arrived back about 2.30 p.m. shouting and waving his arms. We thought he had lost his way and had had to turn back, but he assured us that by going straight south it was a much shorter trip.

As we children were anxious to see our new homesite, we crawled across the river on two logs that the men had put there for a bridge. Poles were spiked on the logs and our dunnage was taken over. We moved into Jim Ingram's shack, and as the space was limited, we were forced to put the table and chairs outside at night.

Father, my brothers and Jim Ingram built a log house on our homestead and we moved into it the fall of '83. It was made comfortable with home made furniture.

As barrels were scarce and water hard to get we took our washing to the river, and used the bushes to dry the clothes on. It was while doing our washing at the river one day the Miss Long came to get Bert whom my mother had been taking care of since his mother's death. This was our first meeting with Miss Long.

In those days we made our candles from suet as coal oil was so expensive, \$3.50 per gallon. We got wool and carded it and spun the yarn, and mother and we girls made socks, stockings and mitts from it. We wore black cashmere stockings for our best.

As money was scarce, we used to take a load of grain to town and trade it for an apple box full of groceries. We ran out of white flour and had to use barley flour. Winnipeg flour retailed at \$16.00 per hundred, sugar at four pounds for \$1.00, salt for four pounds for \$1.00. We had our own potatoes that winter, and we had lots of game.

As there were no settlers north of the Sturgeon in those days, there was very little land broken. Our first little crop at the Sturgeon was cut with the cradle.

When the logs were taken out for the church, Rev. Mr. Baird, our first minister, helped with the building, my father making the sashes and doors, also making them for the first Presbyterian church in Edmonton.

During our first summer, church services were held at Mr. George Long's, and we appreciated Mrs. Long asking us for dinner, as we had to walk four miles. Later, when services were held in Dan McKinley's small shack, seats were provided for the women, but the men had to stand through the service.

My mother passed away in 1895 and my sister Nellie passed away when 12 years of age. My father married again, and later moved to Edmonton where he lived for 15 years previous to his death in 1932. My step-mother still lives in Edmonton and enjoys the company of her relatives and friends.

1882

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. OLIVER CARSON AND FAMILY

as recorded by their son and granddaughter

S. A. CARSON AND MRS. J. PAUL

MR. Charles Carson was born January 23, 1850, at Vernon County, Carleton, Ontario, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Carson. Manitoba at that time became known as a favorable agricultural district, and Charlie came to Winnipeg in 1879 to investigate the prospects of settling there. While there he met an old neighbor, Mr. Pete Williams, who had been sent out by the Indian Department to take charge of the Frog Lake Agency. Charlie was offered work at a good substantial wage to accompany him. He and Pete Williams and Frank Lucas returned to Frog Lake where Charlie remained for two years.

In 1881 Charlie was appointed Indian agent and farm instructor at Saddle Lake. In 1881 Joe Carson replaced Charlie at Frog Lake. During a leave of absence from the work on the Indian farms Charlie and Joe came west to Edmonton in 1882. They were about to locate at Clover Bar, but while in Edmonton they were induced to come to the Sturgeon through the efforts of Dan McKinley.

The Carson men located on East $\frac{1}{2}$ 33, 54, 24, West of 4, and broke six acres of land and put up a log house with a thatched roof. They returned to the agencies at Frog Lake and Saddle Lake. Joe replaced Charlie at Saddle Lake, giving up his own position at Frog Lake, when Charlie and Harry Long, whom he had met while at the Sturgeon returned to Ontario with cayuses and jumpers, driving as far as Qu'Appelle. Charlie went to his old home in Vernon and he induced his family to come west. The family, consisting of his parents, Mary, Lizzie, Arthur and Sam, came west; Will, the eldest, remained in London, Ontario, where he was a school inspector. Tom, who was a Methodist minister was in New York State.

On March 4, 1883, Oliver Carson and family started west with two cars of settlers' effects, including five horses. Will Carson, a nephew, came west also, later locating on land now owned by Harvey Coburn. They arrived at Fort Qu'Appelle about March 10. From there to Saddle Lake the trip was made in covered sleighs on the old mail trail, through Touchwood Hills, Hoodoo, Fort Carleton, Duck Lake, Batoche, Battleford, Fort Pitt, Frog Lake to Saddle Lake.

Charlie and his bride, Miriam Armstrong, who had been married in Brandon, returned to Saddle Lake, and Joe came west to Sturgeon with the rest of the family.

From Saddle Lake, horses, carts and wagons were used, arriving April 26, 1883. Thirty acres were broken and put in crop that spring. The original six acres, sown to wheat, gave an excellent crop which provided flour for the following year, having been ground at the Little Mill, driven by water power on the Sturgeon, eight miles east of home.

In 1885 Charlie took his wife by wagon to Calgary to visit her two sisters who lived there, where she remained for several months. During his absence Joe and Jim Ingram carried on. The first outbreak of the Riel Rebellion took place at this time. The agent's home was broken into and everything stolen or destroyed by fire, including storeroom supplies, and a sewing machine which Mrs. Carson had brought from Winnipeg. The horses were also stolen.

Joe and Jim Ingram made their escape through the advice of Rev. Mr. Inkster, an Anglican missionary who understood the Cree language. Father Farfard, Father Marchand and Tom Quinn, a government employee had been killed a few days before. Joe and Jim escaped to Victoria, now known as Pakan, a distance of forty miles on foot through slush and snow in early April. As the Indians wore moccasins, and shoe prints would be easily tracked, the men wrapped their feet with strips of overalls to disguise their tracks. Arriving at Victoria, Mr. McGillvray, the Hudson Bay man sent a man and team back with Joe and Jim to the Sturgeon.

In 1886 Charlie and his wife came to their homestead at Sturgeon where they made their home until 1911, when they moved to Edmonton to live a retired life.

During their residence on the Sturgeon, Mr. and Mrs. Carson took active part in church, school, and community activities. Charlie acted on the school board many years, and on the church board and assisted in the building of the former Methodist church. Mrs. Carson with Mrs. George Long, Miss Long, Mrs. Rye, and Mrs. Carson Sr., were instrumental through the Ladies' Aid in raising funds for the church organ and equipment. She was always ready to help through sickness and trouble.

Mary married Jim Ingram in 1888, and moved to White Fish Lake where Mr. Ingram was agent and farm instructor.

In 1889 Oliver Carson passed away, leaving Joe, Arthur and Sam to carry on the home farms. In 1892 Lizzie Carson married Isaac Hunter in Edmonton, who was a printer in the Bulletin Office, and was an employee of Frank Oliver. Later they made their home at the Sturgeon on the land now farmed by their youngest son, Charlie. There were three children, Harvey, Maud and Charlie, who still reside in the district. Mr. Hunter passed away in 1902, Mrs. Hunter in 1912.

In 1894, Joe Carson married Priscilla Maxfield, and moved to his own farm where his daughter, Mrs. Paul, now resides. Mrs. Joe Carson passed away in 1895, leaving a baby girl ten days old, who was taken

and raised by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Carson. Mr. Joe Carson later married Maggie Kemp of Pembroke, Ontario, and resided on the farm until 1906, moving to the city, where he passed away in 1912. His widow still resides in the city.

Mr. Joe Carson helped haul the logs and build the first log church at the Sturgeon. He was a school trustee for a number of terms as well as secretary treasurer of the district.

Sam Carson married Lauretta Maxfield in 1898, and Mr. Carson still resides on the original homestead. There are four children in the family, Vera, Vernon, Ada and Allen, who all reside in the district. Mrs. Carson passed away in 1917. Mr. Carson, who was always active in school and church affairs, became a trustee in 1908, and is still chairman of the school board. He was secretary-treasurer of the United Farmers' Association in Namao in 1908-1909. In 1921 he became M.L.A. of the Sturgeon Constituency, remaining in office for fourteen years until 1935, when, owing to impaired health, he retired from active politics.

Mrs. Oliver Carson passed away in 1902 at the home of Mrs. Jim Ingram, where she had spent her later years.

Arthur married Mary Bootsman in 1916, and they still reside in the district. There are four children in the family, Wesley, Maurice, Betty and Jean.

Mrs. Charlie Carson passed away in December, 1922, and Charles Carson, who lived the latter part of his life with his niece, Mrs. Paul, passed away July 26, 1933, at Namao.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ingram moved to Sturgeon from White Fish Lake, to the farm south of Namao now owned by John Baird. There were three children in the family, Harvey who died in infancy, Etta and Carrie, who now reside in Edmonton. Mr. Ingram passed away in 1898, and Mrs. Ingram later married Sam Bailey. They resided on the farm until 1913, when they moved to the city where Mrs. Bailey passed away in 1926, and Mr. Bailey in 1931.

Rev. T. C. Carson and his wife came to reside at the Sturgeon in 1898, to the farm now owned by W. Creighton. Mr. Carson passed away in 1906, and Mrs. Carson passed away in Vancouver a few years later.

Will Carson, a nephew of Oliver Carson, accompanied the family west in 1883. He was located on the farm now owned by Harvey Coburn. He was one of the early teachers in the first public school in Edmonton.

Returning to the farm for a number of years, he freighted to Athabasca Landing and Peace River, acquiring the control of the first flour mill north of the Peace River, in the district known as the Shaftesbury Settlement. Owing to ill health he sold his holdings and moved to Washington to reside with his sister, Mrs. Wilson, where he passed away a few years later.

Sam Bailey was born in Township Peel, Ontario, and with his wife, Maggie Kelly, came west in 1883 to the farm then known as Cut Bank Farm and now owned by Crozier Brothers.

He and his brother-in-law, Robert Kelly, farmed there for three years. Then Sam, his wife and family moved to the farm now occupied by James Gibson. Later he moved to the city where he freighted to Athabasca Landing or did draying in the city. Mrs. Bailey passed away in Edmonton. Later Mr. Bailey married Mrs. Jim Ingram and lived at the Sturgeon.

Mr. Bailey had four girls and one boy, Bernice, Daisy, Bruce, Pearl and Olive, who are living in distant locations. Mr. Bailey passed away at the home of his step-daughter, Mrs. Kew, in 1931 in Edmonton.

1883

HISTORY OF ROBERT KELLY

as recorded by

MR. KELLY

I WAS born July 18, 1857, in the county of Waterloo, Township of Wellesley, Ontario. I left for Alberta May 29, 1883, to seek my fortune. I came to the end of the steel at Swift Current, bought a yoke of oxen and wagon from Mr. Shields and started for Edmonton. The journey was pleasant across the prairie, wild game being plentiful en route. I arrived in Edmonton on July 28, 1883. I went out to Harry Gooderich who farmed five miles west of Edmonton. I received \$3.00 and board for my work during haying and harvesting. That fall I went to Harry Long in the Sturgeon district and did his fall plowing.

Later that fall I rented the land known as the Cut Bank Farm for three years. This land is now owned by Crozier Brothers. I still resided on this land the year of the Riel Rebellion in 1885.

I homesteaded and pre-empted East $1\frac{1}{2}$ 8, Township 55, Range 24. While proving up on my homestead, I also freighted to Athabasca Landing for a number of years.

As I was going out to milk my cow one evening, the Methodist and Presbyterian ministers came in to see me. They offered to milk if I cooked supper for them. When supper was ready, and no milk had arrived, I went out to investigate. I found the men, one on each side of the cow, wondering why they could not get any milk. I told them they were Methodist and Presbyterian, and the cow did not know which one to give the milk to. Taking the pail I soon had a full pail of milk. As I was considered a good bachelor, the ministers often stopped with me. On coming home late from town one night I found Rev. Mr. Forbes had taken possession of my bed, which I considered quite all right.

While bathing, a very humorous incident occurred which I shall never forget. As I was considered a good flapjack maker, I gave a supper to the neighboring young folks one evening. The party included the Craig girls, the Carson girls, Will Carson, Jim Ingram and others. Martha Craig, who was the life of the party, took a flapjack covered with treacle, and creeping up behind Will Carson, who was very bald, slapped it onto his head. When the treacle ran down his face and neck, we all had a good laugh.

In 1896 I married Elizabeth Gauß, and we raised a family of five boys, Maurice, Valentine, Ross, Oliver and Wilfred.

I lived 40 years on the land I homesteaded, leaving Alberta in the spring of 1922 for Spokane, Washington, where I lived for five years. I then moved to Vancouver where I still reside. Many are the pleasant memories of my residence in Alberta, and I enjoy the visits of my many Alberta friends, who visit me here in Vancouver.

1883

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SUTHERLAND

as told by their son

JAMES SUTHERLAND

THROUGH correspondence carried on between Dan McKinley who settled in this district in 1881, George Sutherland, who was then operating a store in Truro, Nova Scotia, decided in 1883 to go out of business and investigate the glowing accounts of the wonderful future of Edmonton and district, then known as part of the North West Territories, packed up a couple of suitcases or valises as they called them in those days, put two or three hundred dollars in his pocket and hit for the west.

Arriving in Winnipeg in due course, he was informed that the best way of getting to Edmonton was to board a construction train that went as far as Swift Current, that being the end of steel at that time. He then hired a man, in the business of transporting passengers, to take him to Calgary. Then the problem arose of getting transportation to Edmonton. However, he ran into some man who was going to Edmonton who offered to take him along. After much dickering a price was agreed upon whereby transportation was secured to Edmonton. After the usual trials and tribulations connected with that kind of a journey in those days, George Sutherland finally reached Fort Edmonton, settled up with his man, and began looking for some means of getting to Sturgeon, now known as Namao; Namao being the Cree for Sturgeon. It seemingly didn't take him very long to make up his mind as to whether he was going to stay or not as he immediately filed on the N.E. quarter 32, 54, 24, west of 4, and pre-empted the N.W. quarter of 33, 54, 24, west of 4.

He bought a yoke of oxen and a plough and went to work breaking and clearing land. Bached that summer, or the remainder of that summer and that winter with Dan McKinley. In the winter he got out two sets of building logs, and in the spring of 1884 secured lumber and shingles, built a little house, 16 by 18, put in a few acres of crop and then went back to Nova Scotia for a final wind up of his affairs, and to bring his wife and six small children, Isabel, Robert, Murdoch, James, George and John. Bidding farewell to old friends and relatives in the old home town, he again left Truro in August, 1884, for the land of his new adoption. The journey from Truro to Calgary was quite of the ordinary for those days. The railroad had reached Calgary from Swift Current between the period of the two trips.

Arrangements having been previously made for his brother-in-law, Alex McKinley to meet him in Calgary with horses and wagons to bring the family and what-not to Edmonton, then on to Namao. On arriving at Calgary his brother-in-law was there, but the freight had not yet arrived, and we had to wait two weeks for its arrival. During these weeks we lived in tents, there being only two or three houses in Calgary at that time. After this delay in our journey, and the loading of freight it was found necessary to buy another wagon. After considerable dickering a wagon was secured and we left Calgary in the early part of September, headed for Edmonton and our new home. Things went well for the first day or two, and then it started to rain, making the road between Edmonton and Calgary very difficult to navigate. Creeks and streams that were quite easily forded previous to the rain now became very difficult. To further our difficulties one or two of the horses, as soon as they would get into the middle of a stream would balk and this would necessitate changing horses in midstream. However, we had one team that could be relied on in any circumstances, no matter how difficult. So it fell to the lot of "Bill and Charlie", to take the place of the balky team and bring the load through. However, nothing more serious happened than losing the horses two or three times, and we finally reached what is now known as South Edmonton.

Resting there for a day or two we continued on to Sturgeon, arriving on the afternoon of the twenty-seventh of September.

One of our neighbors had just finished cutting a few acres of crop that father had put in in the spring before leaving for the East. The grain, though slightly frozen, was of a fair quality.

On arriving, father immediately set to work about preparing for winter. There was the log house to be plastered, a log barn to be built, the harvest to be taken care of and a few loads of hay to be cut. Lucky for us it was a fine open fall. The month of October and the first part of November was just as nice weather as you could wish to have at any time. One of the first things father did was to round

up his team of oxen, "Black" and "Jack", which had been turned loose to run with the neighbor's cattle.

The first thing to be done was to bring a barrel of water from the river. Black and Jack were hitched to the front bob of a sleigh and the barrel was tied on in some fashion. After their long holiday, Black and Jack took it into their heads to show some speed. At the sight of this barrel on the sleigh, and being confused at the sight of so many "kids" around, they thought it a good opportunity to stage a runaway, and promptly acted accordingly. You talk about "knee action", and "free wheeling," you should have seen those oxen go.

Harvesting completed and everything pretty well arranged for winter, the next worry was to get the threshing done. Although there was not much to thresh it was just as important an event or more so than threshing is today. Our first threshing was done by Sibead and Alphonse Lamoreaux, taking as their pay every tenth bushel.

Prairie chickens, partridge and rabbits were plentiful and provided the meat menu for that winter.

Winter set in in earnest about the twentieth of November, the thermometer going to 40 degrees and 50 degrees below zero.

Coal was discovered about that time in what was then known as Egg Lake coulee, two miles north and one mile west of Namao. The settlers used to go and dig their own coal, there being no royalties or dues to pay, and it afforded a cheap fuel for the winter months. This coal field soon became a popular and valuable asset to the community and Edmonton district as well as to its owners.

I do not recall very much about our first Christmas or the first winter. Our house being close to the trail I remember on many occasions a light being left in the window to guide neighbors who had gone to Edmonton on their way home. Winter was somewhat marred by rumors of the Riel Rebellion, which caused great uneasiness in the settlement.

As spring approached these rumors became more serious, and came to a head one very dark night when we were somewhat startled by a rider who hurriedly approached the house. Not waiting to knock on the door, he rushed in saying: "Pack up everything you can, take what food and supplies you can with you and poison the rest. The Indians have taken Fort Saskatchewan and are on their way to Edmonton and may be here before morning. We are all going to go over to the coulee at Jim Kelly's and will decide during the night what's best to be done."

We were rather handicapped by the night being very dark and we were not allowed to use lanterns or a light of any kind. Everything had to be done in the dark and done as quietly as possible. Every family in the neighborhood got the same notice, and almost every family responded to the call. Like many other alarms, this one proved false. In the morning they all returned to their homes.

As I understand there has already been a resume given of the succeeding events of the settlement's experience in connection with this rebellion, I will say no more.

Father and mother both took an active part in the church and community life. Mother passed away in 1897, father in November, 1914, Murdoch in 1919, and Isabel in October, 1925.

Robert is farming at Colchester, George is retired and living in Monterey, California. John is residing at Kelowna, British Columbia, and James is still residing on the old homestead.



George Sutherland in the Post Office, 1902

1883

HISTORY OF DAVID CRAIG

as recorded by

MRS. W. F. CRAIG

MEAFORD, Grey County, Ontario, was the home of David Craig, his wife and family, Will, the eldest, a boy of seven; Susan, Christina, Martha and a baby boy, David Jr. Two weeks after the birth of David, Mrs. Craig passed on and the family was distributed among willing relatives, Susan and Tina went to uncles, while Martha and David went to their grandmother Bole. Will remained with his father and received what education he could in that district.

Like a great many other settlers of Grey County, the discouragement of stones, and the two boys needing land in the future, drove them to seek better land. Perhaps the colorful tales of men who had been west made them decide the all important question of moving.

In 1883 David Craig and his sixteen year old son, Will, loaded their cattle, horses and other settlers' effects onto the train which would take them to Swift Current on their journey west. Swift Current being the end of the rail at that time, it meant that families coming from east met at this point and made schooner trains and travelled together for safety and company, and the Craig's were no exception. The Wilson family was waiting in Swift Current for some of their effects and the two families travelled together the rest of that long journey to Edmonton and thence to the Sturgeon. Their settlers' effects were loaded into schooners and squeaking oxcarts and the cattle and extra horses were driven. Mr. Craig brought quite a number of purebred cattle and horses with him.

The thrill and excitement of getting the cattle and horses in the water, for the rivers had to be forded, made vivid pictures. Some of the horses swam with their whole heads out of the water and some just their noses out. The colts stayed close to their mothers' flanks. At each succeeding river it was harder to get them to make the first plunge. There is an end to every journey, no matter how long, and the end of this one was reached in August of the year 1883.

The homestead that was filed on by Mr. Craig was the S.W. 1/4, 55, 24, W. 4, and is the farm now occupied by Mr. Fred McLay. The first habitation was a tent and that winter it was destroyed by fire, some of the contents of the tent that were saved still bear the traces of that conflagration.

One of the first frame houses built in the district was by Mr. Craig in 1889 on his farm. The structure of this house told that Mr. Craig had come from Ontario, where he had been used to housing everything, even the well and a good supply of wood were under cover.

In 1890 the Governor General of Canada, Lord Stanley of Preston, visited the west. He was the first Governor General to come as far west as Edmonton. The hospitality of the district was extended to his Excellency and a banquet was given in his honor in the large frame house at Mr. Craig's farm. Mrs. George Long convened this enormous banquet. The pudding was made in a huge iron cauldron that is still in use for heating water to scald the pigs at butchering time. The community provided all the good things that the table groaned under. Minute details still linger in the minds of some of those who were present at this memorable occasion.

Susan and Tina Craig came west in 1884 to live with and to make a home for their father and brother in this new country. The railroad had reached Calgary by this time and the long journey across the prairie was avoided. The trip to Edmonton from Calgary by buckboard was adventurous enough for the teen aged girls. They had accompanied Mrs. George Hutton on the trip west, who was coming out to join her husband in the Sturgeon settlement.

In 1887 Martha and David Jr. came to join their father. Albert Bole, who accompanied them, brought two purebred heifers for Mr. Craig, who believed in keeping his herd up to a good standard.

Mr. Craig had a third share in the first threshing machine of the district, Harry and George Long being the other shareholders. This machine was run by horsepower and was very slow. The grain had to be stacked and it was an all winter's job to get the neighbor's threshing done. A few years later, the horse power was replaced by a portable steam engine.

Mr. David Craig passed away in December, 1892. Will, at the age of twenty-five, was left the responsibility of the family.

No one ever dreamed when the Wilson and Craig families met at Swift Current in 1883 that it would end in the uniting of these families, as Will was a boy of sixteen and Maggie Wilson was a girl of five at this time. They were married January 15, 1896 and Will and his bride moved to his own homestead on the brow of the hill north of the Sturgeon River the following spring. Susan and Tina Craig were married before Will, the former to Harry Bell and the latter to Jack Ferguson.

Martha Craig left the district about the time of her brother's marriage and entered the hospital to train for a nurse. She later married Mr. Morse and settled in Minneapolis, where she still resides.

Dave Craig went to the Boer War in South Africa. A few years after his return he married Miss Covey, but his marriage was short lived as he passed away in 1909.

At a surprise party given for Mr. and Mrs. Craig on the occasion of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Mr. Craig told a yarn on his brother-in-law, Jack Ferguson, who had homesteaded on the present Namao Road, about half way to Edmonton. Jack who was courting Tina at the time, went to pay a visit and on the same day Will went to town. A terrible snowstorm came up and Will's horses were tired out by the time he reached Jack's shack on his way home. Will put his horses in the barn and made them comfortable. Entering the shack he made a fire and helped himself to "eats" and finally went to bed. When Will reached home next day, he found that Jack had occupied his bed and they were even on that score.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Craig had a family of six children, Cecil, Herbert, Nellie, Doris, Clifford, and Walter, who passed away in 1934 at the age of thirty-three years.

The Craig family have played a large part in the building up of this community. They helped to build the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Mr. W. Craig was an elder in the Presbyterian church and later the United church, which office he held until his death in October, 1935, at the age of sixty-eight years.

Mr. Craig was one of the old school and much preferred his horse drawn vehicles rather than the newfangled machines run with gasoline. There was nothing more enjoyable to him than to meet friends and oldtimers and to chat with them about the days of long ago, which were always happy memories to him.

1883

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. GEORGE HUTTON

as recorded by their niece

MISS KATE MALONEY

THE SPIRIT of adventure led two young men in their early twenties to leave their old home in Collingwood, County Grey, Ontario, to come west in 1883. One of these was George Hutton; the other, his uncle, Wm. Maloney. They travelled by train to Medicine Hat, the end of steel at that time, and continued the rest of the trip by teams.

The season had been favorable, the rainy period being over and the plague of the early days, mosquitoes, was over also, which made the drive very pleasant. A great deal of country was looked over but proved unsuitable and on they came. Mr. Hutton had an uncle, Dan Maloney, who lived in St. Albert, so to St. Albert the travellers came, arriving in the autumn of 1883.

After a short rest and many lengthy accounts of the old home, the next move was to look around for a suitable location. Practically the whole country was carefully investigated and the Sturgeon was the "chosen land" in Mr. Hutton's opinion. The beautiful park-like appearance, open land, and above all, Ontario neighbors, decided Mr. Hutton to homestead here. He also pre-empted a quarter of land next to him. Mr. Hutton had left his young wife, Sophrinia, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, at Collingwood, Ontario. He built a small but neat frame house on the homestead and in June, 1884, Mrs. Hutton came west.

Mr. David Craig left Sturgeon for Calgary by team to meet Mrs. Hutton, who had chaperoned his two young daughters, Susan, now Mrs. Harry Bell, and Tina, now Mrs. J. Ferguson, from Ontario to their western home.

The young couple were very enthusiastic over their new home. There being several ladies now living in the district, social life was made more enjoyable.

In April, 1885, alarming news of a rebellion came very suddenly. Many will remember those anxious days. A meeting was called to discuss the situation and it was decided to move all the women and children to a place of safety. In Edmonton the Hudson's Bay Co. fort was filled to the limit, all but four families had rushed to the fort. Many eyes were turned to St. Albert. Mr. Hutton took his wife and their cherished possessions to his uncle's in St. Albert. Several other

families also went to the Mission there. The men calmly continued with their everyday life, seeding had to be done and as the work on the land was done with single furrow walking plows, it was a slow procedure at best. These brave men plodded steadily on, not letting themselves be carried away by fear of the possibility of massacre in the near future and in the harvest time they reaped their reward.

The rebellion scare did not last very long. The Frog Lake massacre was on April 1 and on May 6 troops reached Edmonton from the East. People felt safer and returned to their homes, and life went on as before.

In the winter of 1885-86 Mr. Hutton returned east to his old home, leaving Mrs. Hutton, with Britton Duke in charge of the homestead. Disposing of his eastern home enabled Mr. Hutton to return in the spring with some up-to-date equipment, a twelve tube seed drill and other machinery.

One of Mr. Hutton's ambitions was to raise more grain than his neighbors. If an item appeared in the Bulletin stating that D. Craig had threshed 900 bushels of wheat from 20 acres, or that D. B. Wilson threshed 282 bushels of wheat from 7 acres, Mr. Hutton must do his level best to outdo that.

On different trips to the east, Mr. Hutton would return accompanied by prospective settlers. On one trip he induced three cousins to come west, only one remained, R. G. Bull; the other two returned to Ontario as the west was too lonely for them.

Mr. Hutton never made a show of what he did. His particular way in helping was to lend a hand privately to newcomers, and he helped many a settler begin in this new country.

In 1888 Mrs. Hutton returned east to visit her relatives and never returned to Sturgeon. She departed from this life in Calgary while on her return journey to the Sturgeon. After the great loss of his wife, Mr. Hutton rented out his farm, not caring to live on it by himself. In partnership with his uncle, D. Maloney, he built and ran a grist mill at St. Albert. After three years partnership he bought out his uncle's share and continued to run the mill himself.

In 1890 Mr. Hutton married a second time, his bride, Alice Carey, the daughter of an Edmonton old timer, is now Mrs. Sam Bartlett, who still resides on the original homestead. The call of the farm was within him, so Mr. Hutton sold the mill and went back to the farm where he lived for three years.

He moved to the city where he operated a feed and sale stable and dealt in real estate. Mr. Hutton made a practice of buying farms and developing them for sales purposes. He was among the first dealers to bring eastern horses to the western market. Mr. Hutton passed away at his city residence in 1911.

1884

HISTORY OF ROBERT W. BAILEY

as recorded by his daughter

MISS RUTH BAILEY

MR. ROBERT WESLEY BAILEY was born April 27, 1858, in the township of Peel, Ontario, of English and Pennsylvanian Dutch parents. During his boyhood he worked on his father's farm and sometimes for his neighbors. In 1884, at the age of 26, he came to Alberta and worked for Alf. Hutchings during the first winter. His brother Sam had come six months earlier than he, and his sister, Hannah Kelly, one year earlier.

In 1885, during the Riel Rebellion, he drove a team on the transport hauling provisions for the soldiers at Fort Pitt. On one of his trips he found an Indian corpse in a birch bark casket hung on a tree. His curiosity nearly cost him his life as a bullet passed close to his head as he ducked below the wagon.

During this time excitement ran high in the neighborhood and it took but slight provocation to start trouble. Self preservation was their first thought and the rifles were kept loaded at all times. One evening while Mr. Bailey was alone at Alf. Hutchings' shack he heard a war whoop. Believing it to be Indians, he reached for his rifle and opened the door. At the critical moment Hutchings spoke, which possibly saved his life.

He homesteaded on the bank of the Sturgeon four miles north west of the Sturgeon Presbyterian Church, and resided there for 46 years. In 1887 he married Anna Belle Wilson. There were eleven children in the family, John, Luella, Ethel, Robert, Eva, Sarah, Hazel, Marjorie, Walter, Edwin and Ruth. Of these nine are living and four of them still reside in the Sturgeon district.

Mr. Bailey was game guardian and land guide for several years. During this time he located farms for Charles McLaughlin, L. J. Samis, and the Groats. The first coal in the district was taken by Mr. Bailey from the coulee for his own use. Later he opened a coalmine where he wheeled coal with a wheelbarrow for 60c a ton.

He freighted from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing, often being away for two or three weeks at a time. He received \$35.00 for chopping the road through from 111 Avenue (then known as Rat Creek) to Jasper Avenue (then known as Edmonton).

In 1912 he returned for a visit to his home province for the first time since coming west. Many were the changes that took place during his lifetime in the Sturgeon District. He passed away on March 3, 1933, beloved by his wife, family and friends, leaving a lasting impression of his good will and kindly manner towards everyone.

1884

HISTORY OF MR. HARRY BELL

as recorded by

HIS WIFE

HARRY BELL was born in the county of Renfrew, Ontario, in the year 1861. He first came west in 1882 to Winnipeg and worked on the telegraph line between there and Calgary. He came to Edmonton the following year, travelling by oxcart.

Mr. Bell freighted between Edmonton and Calgary with oxen and one pony cart. As he often had many miles to do on foot before breakfast and he could not ride the oxen back to camp, he decided to get a pony. This pony was very useful in rounding up the oxen which would stampede when the flies and mosquitoes were bad. Mr. Bell also used the pony in freighting and it lived long enough for his children to learn to ride and drive and was a real pet of the family and to many of the neighbor children in the early days.

In 1884 he homesteaded in the Sturgeon River district in what is now known as Sunnyside. He continued freighting which was the only means of a grub-stake, as they called it then, and some cash to help equip the homestead, where he settled as soon as he had the wherewithal to break up land and to build a house. Mr. Bell took great pride in building his house which had a shingled roof, and the first building that he had ever done. Although a modern home was built in later years, the first home still stands. The old timers have a kindly feeling for the old time things and certainly have a warm spot for these and for each other.

In 1890 Mr. Bell married Susan Craig, daughter of David Craig, formerly of Meaford, Ontario. There are three children living, Mrs. R. Gabbey of Sunnyside, Mrs. L. R. McKay of Drumheller and Elmer who farms the original homestead.

Even after Mr. Bell was married he still had the freighting and camping spirit and often made trips with freight from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing. He sometimes had his wheat ground into flour and freighted it to the Landing in order to get a little money to carry on with, as money was scarce in those days and trading the rule.

One winter he made a trip to Peace River with four loads of oats which was quite an experience. He was accompanied by James Atkinson, another pioneer who was experienced in freighting and camping and who helped keep things cheered up. The trip was a long cold one. Most of the time they had to thaw their bannocks, which were baked on an open fire when their bread played out. Even in forty below weather they could always see the bright side of things and

would tell each other a good story sitting beside the campfire, as they were not always able to reach a stopping place by night. This trip took six weeks and they arrived home the best of friends and without any frost bites.

Mr. Bell, before Church union, was a staunch Presbyterian and was an ardent church worker. He was glad to see Union and took a great interest in the welfare of the community. He travelled through the country a great deal in the interest of Prohibition. He served several years as councillor for Sunnyside and Namao, in which district he lived for fifteen years.

For many years he was a Liberal in politics, but on the founding of the U.F.A., he joined that organization. He was long a member of the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers organization.

While living at Namao a mine was opened on Mr. Bell's farm by Mr. Jack Lindsay and his two brothers, who had come from Scotland. They opened the mine from the coulee, digging in from the side of the bank. They supplied the local trade. Later on a new company was formed, Duggan & Jones, who sank a shaft on top of the hill into which a spur was run from the railroad from where they shipped coal as well as supplying the local trade in the early days.

Before there were any mines operating, the farmers used to dig out their own coal as it was needed. There was a great deal of wood to be had then, but as land was being cleared, wood became somewhat scarce, which made coal mining become quite an industry.

In later years Mr. Bell and family moved back to the homestead at Sunnyside, where Mr. Bell passed away in 1933 at the age of seventy-three years.



Sturgeon School and Presbyterian Church in 1905

1886

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. FINLEY McDONELL

as recorded by their son

CHRIS

FINLEY McDONELL, son of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Christopher McDonell, farmer, was born at St. Raphael's Parish, Glengarry, Ontario, on November 5, 1862. At the early age of sixteen years Finley McDonell came west to Rat Portage where he worked as a teamster in lumber camps for a number of years.

Later he bought a farm twenty miles west of Winnipeg, where he lived for three years. Owing to poor crops and frost he left there and came by train to Calgary. He had intended going on to B.C. where his brother, Christopher, was working as a head sawyer in a saw-mill and who later built and owned the Grand Central Hotel in Rosslyn, B.C. During his week's stay in Calgary, Finley McDonell met George Hutton who advised him to come to Edmonton. Mr. Hutton was bringing an outfit of horses to Edmonton and Mr. McDonell was given part of the outfit to drive. The trip to Edmonton was made in fifteen days. They were caught in two snowstorms although it was the month of May.

Edmonton in those days consisted of a few scattered houses around the old H.B. fort. Finley McDonell and George Hutton crossed the Saskatchewan River on the ferry, then operated by John Walters. They continued on to the Sturgeon where Mr. Hutton lived on the farm now owned by Sam Bartlett. On the twenty-fourth of May Mr. McDonell went to Edmonton to the celebration, when he was hired by Dan Maloney of St. Albert and remained with him for two years. Later he worked for Bill Cust for three years at St. Albert, then going to the Cut Bank Farm (now owned by Crozier Brothers) which Mr. Cust then owned and where he had about three hundred acres under cultivation.

Mr. McDonell operated a horse power threshing machine. Later he bought the first steam engine in the district and since that time has worn out three other outfits. He threshed for nearly all the farmers from Sunnyside to St. Albert, south to near the city limits and west all through the Ray district. He was able to thresh about three thousand bushels of oats per day with the older outfits, while he is able to thresh thirty-five hundred bushels per day with the later models. In those days it was not unusual to thresh out three or four jobs in a day, one one occasion he threshed one job after supper. Threshing lasted until Christmas and often until March.

Finley McDonell filed on his homestead, where he still lives, in 1887. When he came to the Sturgeon as one of the pioneers, amongst those then here were Longs, Carsons, Sutherlands, Robert Kelly and Robert Bailey. When he first lived on the homestead he had to travel around by Robert Kelly's to get to the east side of his farm, as there was no bridge directly across the river. The first bridge across the Sturgeon River on the correction line at Finley McDonell's was built by Ronald McDonald a year later. Finley McDonell hauled the timber for this bridge from Egg Lake north of Morinville. He also hauled the lumber for the second bridge which was built by Archie Cameron. The third and present bridge was built by a Mr. Fraser and Finley McDonell had teams working there hauling timber and doing pile driver work.

There was no road to St. Albert from the Sturgeon when Mr. McDonell settled here. He built the road from the Sturgeon, down along the river, now known as the river road to St. Albert. Later he was road foreman on this road for about five years. In 1912 the E.D. & B.C. Railway built across the McDonell farm and construction camps were located on the place.

Coal was first found in a well dug on the farm. Later the railway uncovered the outcrop of the seam, while excavating for culverts. In 1925 the coal seam was prospected by James Sutherland, a miner and friend of the family. The seam proved to be of considerable size. It was further developed, until now it has become one of the leading mines in the district.

In July, 1895, Finley McDonell married Mary McGillis, also of Glengarry, who lived with her mother and her brothers, Angus and William, at Riviere Qui Barre.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonell are still enjoying the best of health. Besides operating the half section of land, Mr. McDonell is chief engineer at the McDonell mine, which is owned and operated by himself and his three sons, Angus, John and Christopher. The first two sons are married and are living on the farm, while Chris is at home with his parents. The only daughter, Marjorie, now Mrs. Frank Flynn, also lives close to the old home.

Mr. McDonell was always a willing helper in community work and was one of the organizers of the Rose Ridge School district. He served on the board as trustee for years, where all his family received their school education.

1888

HISTORY OF MR. WILLIAM PEARSE

as recorded by himself

I WAS born in Ontario, twelve miles west of London, in 1865. When my father died, leaving my mother with a family of seven to care for, I was seven years old. I then was among strangers and obtained my early education under the guardianship of Mr. and Mrs. Hacker.

In 1883 I left for Muskoka and Parry Sound country to locate on a farm. Finding only timber and rocks, I gave up the idea and went to work in the lumber camps. It was while working there that I met Jack Boothe who had been out west at the time of the Rebellion. He had a great story to tell of this western country.

In the spring of 1888 I came to Calgary in company with John Flynn who was bringing a car load of effects with him. In the latter part of June we landed in Calgary, that being the end of the railroad. After two weeks stay, in which we built covered wagons, we were prepared for the journey to Edmonton. On July 3 we left for Edmonton, our outfit consisting of two teams, a wagon, one horse and buckboard, and a drove of cattle. We were fifteen days on the road, fording rivers, getting stuck in the mud, and once having our horses stolen by Indians who, when rewarded, returned the horses.

Our main company along the trail in those days were bulldogs and mosquitoes. On the 18th of July we landed in Edmonton, crossed the ferry and camped near where the General Hospital now stands. From there we moved to St. Albert, rented a house, and covered many miles north and east of St. Albert in search of land. Finally I obtained a job with Mr. Maloney for three months, then moved onto the homestead three miles west of Namao. I took the homestead in 1888. In those days I lived on rabbits, prairie chickens and black flour. I sold this homestead in 1898 and bought a half section three miles south of Namao, where we have lived for 37 years.

In 1895 I was married to Mary Arnold and we had three sons, Dr. Harry Pearse, Detroit, William and John who still live in the district. Hard times were with us and it was a big effort to raise our family and pay for the place.

We had to put oats through the fanning mill twice before hauling them to South Edmonton, where we received twelve cents a bushel for them. To cut down the cost of farm operation, Mrs. Pearse often worked in the fields during haying and harvest, while I hauled freight with horses for the Hudson's Bay Company to Athabasca Landing, a distance of a hundred miles and suffered many hardships along the trail.

1889

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. FLYNN

as recorded by their daughter

MISS MARY FLYNN

NUMBERED among the early pioneers of the Sturgeon district is the late John T. Flynn. Mr. Flynn was born in 1856 in a small town where the city of Toronto now stands. The early days of his youth were spent around Parry Sound. At the age of twenty-five he married Bridget McGill, and with their five children they headed west, in 1889. He arrived in June in Calgary, the nearest railroad town to the Sturgeon at that time, but had to wait a few weeks for his wife and family, who were delayed in Winnipeg, owing to sickness of the children. Leaving Calgary on July 2 in a snow storm, they headed north with a team and wagon, and arrived in Edmonton some twelve days later after a hard and tiresome journey.

In the same year Mr. Flynn filed on a homestead, the S.W. 14 of Section 6, Township 55, Range 24, and after spending a year at St. Albert he then moved his family to the farm of Mr. Finlay McDonell on the Sturgeon, from where Mr. Flynn began improvements on his homestead. In three years time he moved the family home. A few years later he enlarged his farm by purchasing the quarter adjoining his farm on the east.

In 1897 his wife passed on, leaving him with a family of ten children, four boys and six girls, three other children who died in infancy had been laid to rest in the St. Albert cemetery.

Always a willing helper in community work, Mr. Flynn was largely responsible for forming a new school district and building the Rose Ridge school where all members of his family received their education.

In 1900 Mr. Flynn married again, this time choosing as his helpmate Anne Kavanaugh, also an old timer in the west, having come to Alberta two years after the first railroad reached Strathcona.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Flynn lived in St. Albert some ten years prior to the former's death in June of 1934, Mrs. Flynn and her two children still occupy the old homestead site on the Sturgeon.

1890

HISTORY OF JOHN W. TINGLEY

as recorded by his daughter

MRS. ROBERT BELL

JOHN W. TINGLEY was born at Point DeButte, N.B., in 1840, and came of old Loyalist stock. Fifty years later, 1890, he came west to Edmonton accompanied by his six daughters and three sons. It was through the agency of Mr. Thomas Hutchings that Mr. Tingley purchased land in the Poplar Lake district. A few years later ill health forced Mr. Tingley to return east. He later came back to Edmonton where he passed away on February 10, 1920, at the age of eighty years. Mr. Tingley was always interested in religious and political work, as well as in farming and carpentering.

His son, Thomas A. Tingley, homesteaded about 1894 the place known as the old Tingley homestead on Namao Road, where he farmed until his death in 1910. This farm is now the home of Mr and Mrs. James Gibson. Alex. Tingley moved to Lloydminster in 1905 where he has played a leading role in pioneering for the district. John W. Tingley joined the R.C.M.P. and took an active part in the World War. Since then he has mined in Northern B.C.

Martha married E. J. Bangs and made her home in B.C. Gussie taught school in South Edmonton until her death in 1892. Bertie married I. R. Poole of Nelson, B.C. Maggie married Thomas Mac Kinson and returned to Newfoundland. Mary married Robert Bell and settled in Namao, where she still resides. Neta married Harry Shrapnel of Vancouver, B.C.

1890

HISTORY OF ROBERT BELL

as recorded by

HIS WIFE

ROBERT BELL was born at or near Pembroke, Ontario, on the 23rd of January, 1869, of Scotch parentage. In the year 1886 Harry Bell, an elder brother, returned from the west where he had gone four years before, and had been working on the C.P.R. to Winnipeg and the telegraph line to Calgary. He had gone by oxcart to Edmonton and had finally settled on land in the Sturgeon district. On his return to the west, Harry was accompanied by Robert. The trip was made by train to Calgary and then by ox team to Edmonton.

When fording the Saskatchewan River at Edmonton he nearly lost his team, even the loss of his overcoat at that time was serious.

In 1890 Mr. Bell homesteaded the S.E. 1₄ of 28, 54, 24, W. 4, which is still a family possession. Robert Bell freighted throughout the district from Calgary to Athabasca Landing and to the Peace River Crossing in the early days. He also carried on farming operations in the Namao district. He was employed by the Alberta Government for about fifteen years and as a road and bridge inspector was widely known throughout the Sturgeon Constituency.

About twenty-five years ago, in 1910, he took an outfit over the Swan Hills hoping to find a shorter and easier route into the Peace River. It was found not feasible.

In 1904 he married Mary Tingley, daughter of J. W. Tingley, also one of the pioneers of the district. Their wedding was the first to be solemnized in the present church at Namao. Four sons survived this union, Ralph, Ernest, Harry and Horace. Mr. Bell passed away on March 21, 1921, at the age of fifty-two.

Ralph married Miss Alice McKinley, daughter of Daniel McKinley of Namao, January 6, 1933, but was sadly bereaved in the year 1935 by her death, leaving him with twin sons, Robert Harry and Donald Daniel. Ernest married Dorothea York, daughter of Dr. York of Provost, October 25, 1933. They have one daughter, Marilyn, who was born a year later. Horace married Florence Kostuk, daughter of Charles Kostuk, December 12, 1933; a son, Charles Sturgeon, was born in 1934. Ralph and Ernest are employed by oil companies in Edmonton. Horace is farming in the Namao district. Mrs. Bell and Harry are still on the old homestead.

1890

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. C. C. MAXFIELD

as recorded by their granddaughter

BEATRICE MAXFIELD

C. C. MAXFIELD was born on September 14, 1837 at Freetown, Prince Edward Island. He was educated at the ordinary county school, and later took up farming. In 1868 he married Sabella Cairns. Six children were born at Freetown, William and Margaret, twins, Priscilla, Jessie, Leonard, Laurretta and Albert. In 1876 the family moved to Charlottetown. There Mr. Maxfield clerked in Beer and Son's general store. Mr. Maxfield came west to Calgary in June of 1888. He rented a dairy farm and ran that for the two years that he stayed in Calgary. Margaret, who had studied for a school teacher, came to Calgary in December, 1888, and started to teach school in Davisburg, near High River, on January 1, 1889.

William and Jessie came west in April, 1889. Before leaving Charlottetown they wrote to their father in Calgary to tell him

when they were coming. When they arrived in Calgary, in the middle of the night, there was no one to meet them. They sat in the station until morning. In the morning a policeman, who was going off night duty, took them to their father's place. The letter, which they had written from P.E.I. arrived a few hours later.

Mrs. Maxfield and the other four children came west in the summer of 1890. In the fall of the same year Mr. and Mrs. Maxfield, Lennie, Laurie, and Bert moved to Namao to the farm of Dan McKinley, half a mile west of Namao, the farm now owned by Mr. Fred McLav. They stayed there for one year. In December of 1891, the family moved three miles east of Namao to the farm which is still occupied by Lennie.

Margaret left her school near Calgary and came to teach at Namao in mid-summer, 1891, where she taught for two years.

Jessie was married in McDougall church in Edmonton on December 7, 1892, to Charles A. Procunier, a Methodist minister. They moved to Revelstoke, B.C.

In 1893, after the school term at Namao was finished, Margaret went to Revelstoke to visit Jessie Procunier. While there she met Mr. E. E. Hardwick, another Methodist minister, and on May 17, 1894, they were married and went to Victoria, B.C., to live. In 1921 they moved to a farm at Princeton, B.C. where they still reside.

Priscilla, who married Joe Carson in December, 1894, resided on a farm in the district, but their marriage was abruptly broken. Just a week following the birth of a baby daughter, Priscilla died, December, 1895. Her mother, Mrs. C. C. Maxfield, had died a few short months before, having passed away on May 2, 1895.

On June 15, 1898, Laurretta was married to S. A. Carson. They lived on the farm which is still owned by S. A. Carson. Laurretta died in September, 1918.

On July 27, 1898, William was married to Catherine Rye. They lived at the old home for a year, then moved to William's farm, just across the road, where they still reside.

Leonard enlisted for service in the great war in 1915. Bert, who was an engineer on the railroad, came home to the farm while Leonard was away. In the summer of 1916, C. C. Maxfield went to Victoria to stay with his daughter, Margaret Hardwick.

C. A. Procunier and son Charlie enlisted for service in France, so Jessie Procunier returned to the old home, and stayed with her brother Bert until 1919. She returned to Revelstoke, but in July, 1922, came back to Namao, where she still resides.

C. C. Maxfield died in Victoria in January, 1919, the body being brought back for interment in the Sunnyside cemetery.

Leonard was married to Nellie Tims on February 2, 1920, and they still live on his father's farm.

Bert, unmarried, worked on Canadian railroad lines until 1915. He went to the United States in 1921 and still resides in Minneapolis.

1892

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES GIBSON

as recorded by their son

MR. JOHN GIBSON

THE trip from Thornberry, Ontario, in April, 1882, was one that shall never be forgotten by Mr. and Mrs. James Gibson and their four sons and two daughters.

Thomas, the eldest, who had come out before the rest of the family, had prepared a home for them and his future wife, Tillie Krider, who accompanied them, and whom he married after their arrival.

Arriving in Fort Edmonton, the family was unable to cross the river owing to floating ice preventing the ferry from crossing, making a delay of several weeks. Mr. Gibson managed to cross the river in a small basket attached to a cable. He visited his son, Thomas, who worked at the Hutton farm, and arranged to have Mr. Hutton's teams move the family and the luggage out to his farm. They remained on the Hutton farm for a few days.

A quarter section, river lot 63, St. Albert, was bought by Mr. Gibson from a half-breed and the family moved there. While farming at St. Albert, Mr. Gibson took up a homestead at Sturgeon, the quarter which Cecil Craig now farms, and the family moved there. Mr. Gibson passed away here in July, 1897.

The family were now beginning to take up homes of their own. Thomas farmed at Excelsior, later making his home in Edmonton. Mary married Andrew Wilson of Sturgeon, later of Edmonton. Frank farmed at St. Albert where he still resides. Carrie married W. Wingrove of Rose Ridge, now of Colchester. John worked at the Craig farm for a year and a half and then took up a homestead at Excelsior, later selling it and buying land from T. T. Brown at Sturgeon, where he still resides. James remained at home with his mother until she died in January, 1909, and now resides on the Tingley farm, three miles south of Namao.

1892

HISTORY OF WILLIAM WINGROVE

as recorded by

HIS WIFE

WILL WINGROVE was born at Mountsberg, Ontario, June 11, 1870. He came to Edmonton in March, 1892, travelling by train to South Edmonton. The trip was uneventful, except that it was slow and tedious.

Mr. Wingrove's brother, George, now living at Gibbons, came west several years later, in 1901:

Mr. Wingrove bought land north-east of St. Albert in the Rose Ridge district. The farm is now operated by William Jamieson. This land was bought as the Sturgeon was considered the best farming district in those days. He helped to organize the Rose Ridge school and was a trustee and chairman of the board for several years.

Mr. Wingrove married Carrie Gibson in 1896. He and his family left the Sturgeon district in 1904, moving to a farm in the South Edmonton territory, where he passed away in 1923.

Three children in the family reside near their home; Alfred living in Edmonton, Ruth teaching school in Tofield, Oliver farming the home place. Mrs. Wingrove still resides in the South Edmonton district.

1892

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH RYE

as recorded by their daughter

MRS. E. J. HODGINS

MR. AND MRS. RYE and family of three children left the Mus-koka District on the 6th of April by C.P.R. colonization train, arriving in South Edmonton on the 14th of April, 1892. Some 600 persons came together, bringing their settlers' effects. We had two and a half cars of effects including horses, pigs, cows, sheep, hens, and a car of lumber, necessary material with which to build a house, and food enough to last a year—sugar, tea, raisins, fruit, etc.

Our trip out was uneventful, except that it was slow. We had a litter of pigs born on the way out and we had plenty of eggs and fresh milk.

The original number that were supposed to have come out at that time was 800, but some remained in the east for two more years. A streamer was painted and tacked to our car and as we drove or rode through the country the people could read it, and how they would take off their hats and cheer. Our streamer read "Eight hundred souls on board for the North-West". The storekeepers and merchants of our little town of "Sundridge" were much put out at so many leaving the country at the same time, so they read it "eight hundred fools" which was not very complimentary to us. There were 40 cars in our train.

As soon as we arrived in South Edmonton, the men unloaded the stock. Father also unloaded lumber and in a very short time we had a little shack up, near where the street west of the Strathcona station

now stands. The hotel expected to make a good deal out of us but were disappointed and cross over it.

The river was just breaking up and we could not cross on it so had to remain there for about 14 days. Then father came across and went looking for a home for us. He succeeded in renting a farm from Mr. Elisha Rowswell, one and a half miles from Poplar Lake School. Here, too, father had to build a shack out of our own lumber until such time as Mr. Rowswell could build a house. I remember mother lying down for a rest in the afternoon one day,—we were all sleepy and hungry those first few months,—she felt something wriggling underneath her. Finally she got up, thinking it was a grasshopper, but found it was a snake.

We remained on the Rowswell farm for one year. After the crop was in that first summer, father went looking for land.

The years at this time (1892) were wet years, and the land between Sturgeon and Edmonton was wet and sloughy. The land at Turnip Lake and Poplar Lake was all wet. Vance's slough at Poplar Lake covered acres of land and not till you came to Sturgeon did it get any better. The good land at Namao was taken by the Craigs, Longs, McKinleys, Carsons, Sutherlands and Harrolds so this seemed to be the next best and he bought it. The land that the old home is now on was C.P.R. land and was thrown open for sale by auction. Father bought it for \$3.25 an acre. The farm Lawrence is on we bought a few years later from O. H. Bush, and the quarter to the south of it also.

Father built a little shack at Poplar Lake near the old school and the next year, 1893, we three children with the school teacher, Mr. Patterson, lived there and went to school. Father and mother had moved to the place at Sunnyside. Another shack was built for the summer whilst they were building the old home as it now stands. We moved into it that fall.

They moved to Sunnyside on the 10th of May and had to go through snowdrifts four and five feet deep. Father had been up the week before and had sowed a little wheat on some land he had broken the summer before.

The year we were at Poplar Lake they held church services in the school with Rev. Mr. McQueen, Presbyterian minister, and Rev. Mr. Procnier, Methodist minister, preaching alternately. The first Sunday we went to church they elected father Sunday School Superintendent.

The first picnic that was ever held in the country was held that year at Poplar Lake, near where the old school was. A very large crowd attended, people coming from far and near. Frank Oliver was among those present.

When we moved to Sunnyside our nearest church was Namao and we attended there. The minister that first Sunday was a Presby-

terian student. They were organizing a Sunday School and again father was put in as Superintendent and remained as such till the Bethel Methodist church was built in 1896. He was Superintendent of Bethel for eleven years.

Rev. J. B. Taylor came to the field as the Methodist student and was there for two years. During the second year of his term the church was built. It was opened in November, 1896.

Father had a number of tamarac sills in his yard. He donated these. George Long knew where he could find a tall tamarac tree which would make a long sill. He, Harry Long and Joe Carson, went to the bush to obtain it. A heavy snow had fallen in June so they took their sleighs. The sills from home were taken over by father.

Joe Carson gave the land on which the church was built. The rest of the people gave \$50.00 a family except Charlie Carson, his donation being \$80.00. All the people of the Presbyterian church gave a subscription to Bethel church.

They hired William Peters to oversee construction, the remaining labor being voluntary. Charlie Schrieber, who died in 1934, plastered the building. Father hired a man to do his work at home, and he mixed the mortar and waited on Mr. Schrieber whilst he was plastering.

Aunt Annie Lawrence, mother's sister, was living with us at this time. She sent east and received donations of money from friends, but I do not recall the amount.

The Bethel church was moved eleven years this coming summer (1925) to its present location at Sunnyside.

We would like to say here that if it had not been for George and Harry Long the church might not have been built. Before we came to the country they had been deeply interested in the work of the church and with the coming of ourselves and Rev. Taylor they felt that a church should be built.

We children attended school at Namao, with Maggie Maxfield as teacher the first two years. I well remember the first meeting that was held to try and have a school district formed in our own neighborhood. Messrs. Maxfield, Rye, Taylor, Will Carson, Dave Latimer, Bull, Peters, Cameron, and Hall met at our place one afternoon and decided that they should have a school. When they were selecting a name for the school district, and as we had called our farm Sunnyside, mother said why not Sunnyside School District, and so it was called.

The Anglicans had 40 acres off the Bush farm and wanted to build a church. An agreement was arrived at whereby the School District helped them build it and until such time as the District was able to build a school, they would hold school in the church building. They used it for three or four years and then built their present school. I attended the present school a little over a year.

We always attended service at Bethel. They had service at the church at Sunnyside, but we did not attend regularly. The other was our home, and not till we came to Namao in 1922 did I know much of Sunnyside. The ones I had gone to school with were not there.

In 1897 the women of the Ladies' Aid of Bethel church felt that there should be an organ. Money was scarce, but trust women to surmount obstacles. It was discussed at one of their Ladies' Aid meetings and they hit on the idea of each donating a calf. I think four of them gave calves, Miss Long, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Charles Carson and mother. These were offered to Mr. H. Bowen and he gladly took them in exchange for an organ.

We would just like to pay a tribute to Mrs. Charles Carson. She was always faithful to the church and always did what she could, no matter how difficult she found it to do so. She was always in attendance at church and always ready to do her share. She backed up every good thing that came along as also did the Long women.

Father was chairman of the first school board of Sunnyside and remained such for 16 years. Two years after Lawrence took it up and has been on the board ever since.

In the summer of 1896, Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Carson visited the Sturgeon. Rev. Taylor and he conducted services on Sundays at Namao. At one of these services they invited people to decide for Christ. Miss Long was my Sunday School teacher. Elsie Moran and I were sitting ahead of her and after the invitation had been given Miss Long leaned over and said, "Cora, won't you give your life to Jesus?" And then and there I made the decision. I sometimes wonder what would have happened to my life if I had not done so. I thank God many times for my doing so. Many times whilst I was at Namao have I stood on what I believed to be the place and returned thanks to my Maker for His keeping power.

And I want to pay tribute to Miss Long for her love for the young people and interest in them. I am sure many owe much to her love and fidelity.

1893

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN SAMIS

as recorded by their granddaughter

MRS. HARRY SPEERS

JOHN SAMIS was born on a farm near Sarnia, Ontario, in 1839, and his boyhood was spent the same as hundreds of other Ontario boys. When he was 21 he married Hannah Smith who was one year his junior, and they lived near the home for several years.

The United States government opened up Michigan territory for settlers and they moved their small family of four to a farm near Reed City. When their family was nearly grown they again felt the

urge to move on. This time they went to Nebraska and their eldest son, Luther, who had married Martha Minerva Shively, went with them, as well as the younger members of the family. Having the future of their family in mind and instilled with a roving spirit they did not remain in Nebraska long. The praises of the Canadian West were being sung from every corner and every paper. The appeal of the west urged John and Hannah Samis to move for the third time, this time to Alberta or what was then called North West Territories. They settled in the Sturgeon district in the spring of 1893.

Luther and his wife and small daughter, Laura, came at the same time. Fred came in the fall of the same year, and Steve, with his bride Rosa Shultz, came in June, 1895. They all homesteaded north of the Sturgeon River. The old homestead first filed on by John Samis was later owned by his son, Luther, and is now occupied by his grandson, Howard. Fred homesteaded where Glen Samis now lives, and Steve where Ralph lives. Steve, when he proved up on his homestead, moved south of the river where he still resides.

John Samis did not live long after his last move, and died in November, 1900. His wife and other members of their family moved to Vancouver in 1907, and there Hannah Smith died in 1919, at the age of 81. Luther passed on in April, 1934, leaving his widow, daughter Laura (Mrs. Fred Davis) and four sons, Elmer, David, John and Howard. Fred passed on in May, 1934, leaving one son, Hershal, who now lives in Bon Accord district.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Samis and their family, Earl, Bertha, Glen, Eva, Alice, Will, Ralph, Esther, Kenneth, Ted, Dorothy and Stewart, are still residents of the community.

1894

HISTORY OF MR. FRANK SMITH

as recorded by his son

WILLIAM SMITH

FRANK SMITH was a native of Germany. He emigrated to Minnesota, U.S.A., in the early 80's. He and his bride, Miss Carnegie, came to the Sturgeon in 1894, making their temporary home with Mrs. Smith's brother, John Carnegie, who now lives in the Patricia District.

Mr. Smith first worked for Robert Kelly. Later in 1895 he started a small coal mine on the land now known as Long & Carson property. This was the first mine open to the public in the Sturgeon District. The coal was sold for 50 cents a ton and was taken out of the mine in wheel-barrows. It was from this mine that the first car of coal was shipped to Calgary, the coal being drawn by teams to Edmonton.

There were seven children in the family, five boys and two girls. Living at present are two boys, Thomas and William, and two girls, Pearl and Myrtle.

Mr. Smith and his family moved to the Egg Lake district, north of Morinville, and there lived on a homestead for five years. He then moved back to the Sturgeon and again took up coal mining. This time he bought five acres of land with coal rights and leased five acres of coal from Robert Kelly. He opened a shaft on his own property and mined there for a number of years. He opened several other mines. The last mine he opened, he operated for thirteen years.

Mrs. Smith passed away in the spring of 1911. Later Mr. Smith remarried, and since his death, Mrs. Smith and her daughter, Helen, are residing in Vancouver on family property.

Mr. Smith passed away from an accident at the mine on February 8th, 1934. After his death the mine and property was taken over by his son, William.

1895

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. ORRAN B. ARNOLD

as recorded by their daughter

MRS. W. PEARSE

MR. ARNOLD, of Chatham, Ontario, came west in 1893, in search of land. Returning in 1895, he sold his place, loaded a car of necessary effects, and started west. Mother, my twin sister and I left later. The railroad then came as far as Edmonton, although we stopped for one week at Olds. We landed in Edmonton on the 7th of May. We hired a man by the name of Mr. Toll to take us out to my sister's (Mrs. Robinson), who was then living west of Namao.

As I had never seen a ferry before, I will never forget our trip. He drove to the edge of the Saskatchewan River and tried to make us believe he was going to ford the river. I was frightened and said I would walk, at which he replied he had never seen a girl walk on water, but he would wait until the bridge came back.

We came out to Namao, and saw a log house and all the children outside. Mr. Toll told us that a large family lived there. A lad by the name of Tracy Long directed us to my sister's, and we found out the log house was a school.

Father rented a house from Will Craig for three months. We then moved to the homestead near Cardiff. We lived in a sod-roofed shack which leaked worse inside than out, when it rained. My father and brother, Orran, thought it a huge joke to see the water dripping into pans all over the house.

Our nearest neighbor, a mile away, was ~~Mrs. Charles McLaughlin~~. My father kept the store and post office at Namao for a while, later moving to Edmonton where he lived to the ripe old age of 93, passing away in 1918.

1897

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. DAVID CROZIER

as recorded by his daughter-in-law

MRS. LLOYD CROZIER

MR. DAVID CROZIER was born at Carlton Place, Ontario, on July 11th, 1849. When about seven years of age his parents moved to North East Hope, near Stratford, where they took up farming. It was there he received his schooling and grew to manhood. In 1871 his parents, with their family, moved to Lockwood, Missouri. Here he took up farming on his own and in 1880 he married Jenny Edgar. Eight years later death called her away, leaving two children, Margaret and Lloyd. He spent 1889-90 in Washington and California. After two years of travelling he visited his former home, North East Hope, Ontario. The following year, on July 5th, he married Martha Rutherford, sister of Sam, Jim, John and George Rutherford. They visited the World's Fair in Chicago and then settled in Olatha, Kansas, living there five years, where their two sons, John and Kenneth, were born. In 1897 a great deal of advertising and colonization work was going on to get settlers out to the western country. He left Olatha in the fall and looked over Manitoba and the North West Territories. Mr. Sutter, one of Edmonton's old timers, drove a party of men out through this country. Mr. Crozier decided to rent Cut Bank farm and try farming in the Edmonton district.

He returned to his home in Kansas and made ready to move the following spring, bringing his family and settler's effects. Arriving in Strathcona April 5th, there was no snow in town, but lots of snow on the Namao road, having to use both wagon and sleighs to reach Cut Bank farm. They rented the place for the first year and bought it the following year from Mr. William Cust of St. Albert. On his arrival in Edmonton in 1897, he was surprised to meet his brother, William, of Seattle, whom he had not seen for a number of years, outfitting for the gold rush of the Klondike. In the year 1909 he suffered the loss of his left arm from blood poisoning. After losing his arm, he found he could not endure the cold winters. In the winter of 1916-17, he visited Florida. Two years later Mrs. Crozier was called away by death. Again in 1920 Mr. Crozier decided to seek

a warmer climate, this time going to Honolulu. He found it very pleasant and spent nine winters on the island. He sailed from Vancouver and returned by California in the spring, visiting his daughter, Mrs. Bruce Bailey (Mr. Bruce Bailey being the son of Mr. Sam Bailey, and old timer of the Namao district). His last visit to Honolulu was in 1930 when he suffered a slight stroke. He was compelled to stay in hospital there for two months. He was brought home by friends, Mr. and Mrs. James Little, of Edmonton, who were also visiting there. He failed in health for three years and on March 24th, 1933, in his 83rd year, death called him away.

Mr. Crozier was a member and worker in the Presbyterian church and later in the United Church of Canada. Being a member of the Session, he was a delegate to the General Assembly in Toronto in 1913.

His sons, John and Kenneth, and their families, still reside on the old homestead.

1898

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. RICHARD LOWE

as recorded by their son

MAURICE LOWE

IN the year 1890, in the township of Collingwood, Simcoe County, Ontario, the marriage was solemnized between Richard Edward Lowe and Theresa Jane Rutherford. The young couple made their home on a farm at Banks, Ontario. There, two of their three children were born.

Believing that the West held greater opportunities for advancement, Mr. Lowe gave up his farm and went out to what was then called Rat Portage, now Kenora, in Western Ontario, where he engaged in the milling business.

His love of the land and the lure of the West still persisted and in 1898 Mr. and Mrs. Lowe arrived in Edmonton on February 11th. They drove out to the farm home of James Gibson who was a former neighbor in Ontario.

On April 6th, the family moved to the farm purchased from T. Brown. In her diary, Mrs. Lowe recorded the experiences of their first year in the West. The first spring was extremely dry, the first rain coming on June 10th. On June 11th, the potatoes were frozen to the ground. The first snow came on October the 17th. The Lowes threshed on October 26, 27, and 28, with a horse power machine,

threshing 2,031 bushels of grain. That first winter was very mild and Mrs. Lowe recorded that the hens were dusting themselves on December the 23rd.

The family experienced the usual ups and downs of new settlers in a new country. Despite the many hardships encountered, the farm was improved and enlarged, and Mr. and Mrs. Lowe felt that they were becoming firmly established. In January, 1904, Mrs. Lowe passed away, just one week after the death of her baby girl. Mr. Lowe was left with the care of his other two children, Lottie and Maurice. He continued to carry on, taking his place in all activities of the community, social, religious and political, until his death in July, 1920.

His daughter, Mrs. H. Roach, lives in Edmonton, while his son operates the original farm.

1898

HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN M. KERR

as recorded by

MR. KERR

MR. AND MRS. JOHN M. KERR and family of five children came west from Flint, Campbell County, South Dakota, in October, 1898. There being no railroad we drove by team and prairie schooner by way of Bismarck and Minot, through North Dakota to Portal on the Canadian line. From there we shipped to South Edmonton by rail. Our first home was twelve miles north of Edmonton in the Sturgeon district, on the farm rented from M. McKinley, for one year.

In the following year, 1899, we homesteaded where my wife and I now reside, four miles south-west of the Sturgeon Presbyterian Church, now known as the Namao United Church. Our family of five children attended the Bellrose and later the Namao schools.

Of our five children, James, Isabel, Alvin, Pearl and Alvin, Pearl (now Mrs. Howard Latimer) is the only one in the district, the rest all residing some distance from home.

We have had many hardships and trials since our homestead days, but our compensation is derived in the many friends we have made and the benefits we have received from the district we now live in.



AUTOGRAPHS

MEMORANDUM